HORATIO,

OF

HOLSTEIN.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

"GOOD unexpected,—evil unforeſeen,
Appear by turns, as Fortune ſhifts the ſcene;
Some, rais'd by fortune, tumble down amain,
And bound ſo hard, they mount and riſe again."

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ERRATA TO VOL. I.

Page 22, line 5, *for* Berlin *read* Copenhagen
36, 4, *for* death of Gotwig, *read* return of Gotwig
81, 20, *for* eye *read* glow

HORATIO.

CHAP. I.

PARSON Heiligkeit was curate in the remote village of Grunen, near Rudbeck, in the duchy of Holſtein, and one of the moſt poor and honeſt of the reverend corps: his learning had not advanced him, at a late period of life, to a more elevated ſituation, becauſe his diffidence had prevented him from publiſhing it; it had indeed procured for him a promotion to the maſterſhip of the village-ſchool, where its utmoſt exertion was ſeldom extended beyond the monoſyllables and ſacred writings of his own tongue. His preaching had been alſo in ſome meaſure an obſtruction to his promotion: though

he had entered into the ſervice of the church as much for advantage as the love of holineſs, he had not crouched to raiſe himſelf; for he was unfaſhionable in his opinions, and unclerical in his orthodoxy.

His wife, Mrs. Heiligkeit, had been at the early part of our hiſtory married to him about three years, and was very much the reverſe of her good and tranquil ſpouſe.—She had married the parſon becauſe her ambition had ſuggeſted it was a profeſſion. She overlooked a few years in the parſon's age, and at the end of ſeven months produced a very evident proof of her indifference in that particular by the birth of a heir. The good curate did not expect it ſo ſoon, but, as his phyſic was much inferior to his theology, he admitted the explanations which were made on the occaſion.

A ſhort time after this period, an inquiry had been made at the village-tap, if they knew of any good woman who would take the charge of an infant nurſe-child. The hoſtler,

hoſtler, to whom the queſtion had been made, carried the requeſt to the village-barber; the barber related it to his wife; who, as it was but a neighbourly action, ran off to the parſon's wife, while her huſband ſhaved the hoſtler. In a few minutes ſhe returned with full inſtructions, which were tranſmitted through the regular conveyance to the hoſtler, who made a final report, that Mrs. Heiligkeit was ready to treat on the buſineſs of the nurſery. In the evening, the unknown inquiſitant waited on the parſon's wife, and the terms of agreement were ſoon adjuſted: an infant-boy was depoſited in her care the ſame night, accompanied with a ſmall ſum of money, as an earneſt of future punctuality. Mrs. H. made her own propoſals, and aſked no queſtions: ſhe knew *perſonally* that circumſtances of this kind ſpeak ſufficiently plain, and are objects of profit rather than inveſtigation.

The quiet curate had no objection to the adoption of another young Chriſtian into

his houſehold,—if his wife thought it beſt: it was a domeſtic arrangement, and was foreign to the department of the paſtor, whoſe temper was ſeldom diſcompoſed, except on very urgent occaſions, and when his wife ſeized the advantage of his abſence to duſt and regulate his ſtudy, which was literally *a loft*, the roof of which, ſloping from the floor to a foot above the parſon's height, ſhewed, by its crevices, the frangibility of the compoſition, and the blue æther to which his pious thoughts aſcended.

"Thanks be praiſed, (ſaid Mrs. H. ſome time after,) though Providence has given us one child as an expence, it has ſent another to provide for it; and if we ſhould be ſo fortunate as to obtain the lectureſhip, we ſhall have fine times!"

"Ay, (replied the huſband,) we muſt wait patiently, my dear."

"I tell you what, Mr. Heiligkeit, if you do not ſtir, you will loſe it. Mr. Schmelt, the grocer, has been here to-day, and he ſays that Gotwig's reverend legs are as thick

thick as his head, and now is the time to act with ſpirit, if it will but pleaſe the Lord to take him !"

"Fie ! my dear, we muſt pray for his recovery."

"Let him do that ! Now I tell you that it will be neceſſary to make friends, therefore I have aſked Mr. Schmelt, Mr. Kaufſer, and their friends to dinner next Sunday."

"Hold, wife ! how are we to provide for them ?"

"Why, as to that, Mr. Schmelt has aſſiſted me out of the laſt charity-ſermon ; and, therefore, while I am gone to market, do not be ſtudying, but ſtay below, and blow the fire, and boil the pot, and mind the children, or elſe——"

The good woman and her unfiniſhed threat diſappeared together, and left Heiligkeit with ſo many commiſſions, that he was more puzzled in the execution of them, than he would have been in the diſcuſſion of which had a prior exiſtence, orginal ſin

or original virtue. During the interval, however, he employed himſelf in making an epitaph for his worthy viſitor, Mr. S. He had ſcarcely added the laſt line, when in came the identical ſubject of his muſe: the contraſt formed an excellent caricature; the parſon was the exact picture of Lent, and the overſeer of Lammas-tide.

"Good morning," ſaid Heiligkeit.

"Have you been writing a hymn?" replied the round-bellied viſitor.

"No. It is only a dying-ſpeeeh for a near neighbour of mine."

"Let us ſee then; they are the only things I buy, and I am ſure you can make one as well as a ſermon.

Here lies a friend, of nature's fatteſt ſort;
Full five feet high, and juſt as thick as ſhort.
He was a man, who, as the neighbours tell,
Fulfill'd the Scriptures, for he *lived well.*
From what was *good* he never made retreat,
And pray'd for *grace,*—the grace preceding meat.
Of all his deeds which fame has brought to light,
There's nought that's great, except his appetite.

"And

"And on whom may that be made?" ſaid Mr. Schmelt; the parſon had the plain confeſſion ready at the end of his tongue, when his wife, who had entered unperceived, relieved the parties from their embarraſſment. "On whom (ſhe ſaid) ſhould it be made, but our fat lecturer, whoſe mouth is like his barn."

"Very good, (ſaid Schmelt;) and it is on this buſineſs I am come. The doctor ſays he cannot hold it long, and therefore your huſband muſt be ready upon his death to make "his calling and election ſure."—At his departure, Mr. S. reminded the good wife to have the dinner nicely done on the Sunday, when he ſhould faſt and pray in the morning, and enjoy himſelf in the afternoon.

At the appointed time, the gueſts were extremely punctual, and every thing was provided in the moſt plentiful and nice manner. Indeed, theſe were a kind of engagements that went ſo home to their *feelings* and *boſoms*, that they were rarely

known to break them. Mrs. Heiligkeit made them drink plentifully, and the gueſts promiſed moſt roundly that they would intereſt themſelves in the honeſt curate's favour; nay, Mr. Schmelt, as truſtee for the charity-ſchool, hinted that at the next veſtry he would move for an addition to his ſalary.

The next topic of converſation was the myſtery attending the nurſe-child. There was a ſufficient character of feature to diſtinguiſh to whom the infants bore analogy. The traits of the foundling reſembled from their placidity thoſe of the curate, and the joke paſſed pretty freely on the ſnug manner in which he had relieved ſome frail incognita from her burthen, and domeſticated the infant. The good man joined in the jeſt, and declared, in the innocence of the golden age, though he might be capable of *getting* the child in any manner they might chooſe to ſuggeſt, he was not capable of *getting* the money remitted for its nouriſhment.

The

The perſon who had borne the hardeſt on the parſon in the *roaſt* after dinner was the grocer, who, at the more profound queſtions, leered with much ſignificance at the wife. Now, whether the parſon ſuſpected any fraud, or the potency of the ale operated, is uncertain, but, as he loved a joke in his turn, he, after examining the features of his own dear ſpouſe's produce, aſked the company if they did not think the features of his little boy were the counterpart of Mr. Schmelt's. Mr. S. immediately applied to Mrs. H. for the fallacy of the obſervation, and obſerved that the parſon, he hoped, was a better judge of Greek than of children. The curate found his ſpirit nettled at the profanation of that ſacred tongue coming from the mouth of Mr. Schmelt, and threw the tradeſman to an infinite diſtance, by replying, that he had connected two of the greateſt oppoſites in nature, the latter of which was not inferior to him in ignorance.

It was however very evident that the features of the child did bear a marked reſemblance to the grocer's, and the gueſts ventured to affirm, that, if Schmelt and Mrs. H. had been married, they would not have had ſuch a likeneſs of the curate.—Now, to anticipate a little the ſuſpicion of the reader, it muſt be obſerved that Mr. S. and Mrs. H. had been acquainted, as *friends* only, before her marriage. The reverend paſtor was the laſt to have ſuſpected an improper intimacy, but the converſation of the afternoon, with a ſide-wink or two he had detected, had illuminated a little his dulneſs in mundane affairs, and he now began to conceive what the world ſpoke generally of. Nevertheleſs, as he knew nothing poſitive, he dared not hint ſuch an opinion to his tender ſpouſe nor to Mr. Schmelt.

The latter was held in great eſteem as a man of buſtle and warm ſtuff. He had been a member of a ſociety for the detection of ſwindlers and ſharpers, a governor of

of the Houſe of Reclaim for young women, and had been very inſtrumental in introducing a diet of potatoes and rice into the work-houſe, for the benefit of the poor's health.

Mr. S. had originally laboured for ſome years in indigent circumſtances, and, having advanced himſelf to the dignity of a houſekeepeer, he let lodgings. In a ſhort time they were occupied by a bon vivant for the recovery of his health, who had as much rotundity and fatneſs as the landlord, and was only his ſuperior in wealth. They ſmoked, they drank, and fuddled together. Mr. Schmelt however had always an eye to the main chance. Perſons of a full temperature ſeldom exiſt long, without a ſtrict attention to regimen and exerciſe. The bon vivant's preternatural fulneſs brought on a ſtoppage of the lungs; the fogs of winter produced an aſthma, and the aſthma broke a blood veſſel. The doctors were conſulted, who declared that, in ſpite of Eſculapius himſelf, he muſt die. Schmelt

loſt no opportunity; he talked to him on an approaching eternity, read to him in the Bible, and concluded by aſking if he could ſerve him in making his will. The patient, at the laſt extremity, feebly replied in the affirmative, and, as he dictated, Schmelt wrote. A few legacies were left to friends, 200l. to his landlord, and the reſidue was to be divided among poor relations. The will was given to the dying man to read, and in the preſence of the maid and porter was duly ſigned. Mr. Schmelt, at this critical period, had not omitted after the ſum of 200 to leave ſufficient ſpace to inſert another figure, which trifling addition was ſoon after filled up. He then knelt by the bed-ſide, and, with the looks of melancholy and prayers of hypocriſy, requeſted the ſufferer's life might be ſpared; but the Deity heard not his irrelevant petition; the bon vivant ſunk to eternal reſt, and the grocer roſe by 2000l. a *better man*.

The

The perſonal eſtate of the Curate now ſuffered ſome emendation from the removal of the lecturer, who was recommended by the faculty to travel for the benefit of his health to England, to viſit its bathing places, and ſee variety. He had learned that there were at London ſome phyſical Germans, who, by the money they had acquired, ought to rival in knowledge the Medical College itſelf; and, ſuppoſed as they were in the habit of forming their judgment by *water*, the dropſy was their *forte*. The incumbent, therefore, willing to ſtay as long as he could upon this troubleſome earth, called his flock together; and, having lectured them on the anxieties and folly of coveting long life and great wealth, departed in ſearch of one half of what he had been exclaiming againſt. Mr. Heiligkeit during this interregnum was appointed his deputy.

The two boys continued to grow finely, and were each marked by a difference of diſpoſition, to which the affection of the parents

parents were attached by the ſame diverſity. The mother's darling had her bad qualities, and the parſon's his good ones, with the addition of more courage than the latter poſſeſſed. They boys had now attained their tenth year, during which time the remittances had been regularly and privately remitted for the nouriſhment of the young Horatio, the name which the parſon had beſtowed upon him. Ignorant of what his friends were, Mrs. Heiligkeit had in vain bumpered the countryman who brought the money, but ſhe had obtained no information farther than that he knew nothing about the matter, and that he was ſent by nobody. If however the countryman maintained the ſecret on his ſide, Mrs. H. had another in reſerve for him. She had accuſtomed him only to ſee her ſon when he called, a conduct that ſhe hoped might at a proper period be attended with a good effect.

Parſon Heiligkeit in the mean time laboured to inculcate the ground-work of

erudition

erudition in the two boys. Horatio, notwithſtanding many impediments thrown in his way, advanced in uſeful learning with an eaſe and affability which endeared him to his tutor. This was a ſource of no ſmall diſlike in his playfellow, whoſe ſterile ſoil was adverſe to improving purſuits, and not unfrequently generated between them competitions of the manual kind, for which Horatio ſeldom failed to receive a ſecond edition from his female guardian. Nevertheleſs, painful and irkſome as his ſituation was with reſpect to the woman, the parſon careſſed him, and he was a favourite with the villagers.

At a ſmall diſtance from the village was a boarding-ſchool for young ladies, where they were taught in the moſt faſhionable manner to *rede, ſpell, and work*. To this juvenile ſeminary Horatio was a dragon of Wantley; the young inhabitants fled at his approach, and yet loved him for his eccentricities. In wet weather he was ſometimes entruſted to make purchaſes

chaſes of fruit, and more than once had created an uncommon concern in the ſchool, by diſappearing for a day or two with the articles of his truſt.

Among his particular favourites were two laſſes, of the name of Ella and Liſette; with theſe he made parties to ramble; aſſiſted them in their difficulties, whether arithmetical or literary; and, when he robbed an orchard, they had the firſt fruits of his diſobedience. Theſe delinquencies, however, could only accumulate to a certain extent before their collected force was laid before Mrs. Heiligkeit with much exaggeration. Such accuſations came at this period with redoubled effect, becauſe an alarming omiſſion of the payment of Horatio's quarterly money had taken place; a circumſtance which the curate ventured to affirm aroſe from her anxiety to know more than the countryman could tell himſelf.

This failure placed Horatio in the ſituation of a charitable incumbrance, and Mrs.

Mrs. H. thought the time was well calculated to remove the object of her diſlike; ſhe, therefore, one morning attacked her huſband warmly on the ſubject, and inſiſted that he ſhould turn out, and get his living. She then enumerated the complaints againſt him, at all which the parſon laughed. In proportion as he palliated them, ſhe became exaſperated, and inſiſted that either her ſon or Horatio ſhould remove; at the ſame time, to accompany the word to the action, ſhe gave a violent diſloyal blow to ſome queen's ware plates, vowing that ſhe would undertake the diſpoſal and ſettlement of the boys herſelf.

Mr. Schmelt had at this juncture diſmiſſed his boy, and came in the interim to obtain one from the charity-ſchool. The wife immediately ſtated her wants and her wiſhes, and Mr. Schmelt was willing to take the lad, and promote him if he ſhould deſerve it by an increaſe of ſalary. The bargain for his ſervices was ſtruck, and

Horatio

Horatio was transferred from the parſonage to the counter.

Mrs. H. had thus effected a point of importance, but this was only a ſpark in compariſon of a greater manœuvre which in a few weeks ſhe had an opportunity of effecting.

CHAP. II.

ONE Sunday morning, a very elegant and dignified lady, about twenty-ſix years of age, entered the cottage, attended by the ſame countryman who had ſo long neglected his pecuniary viſits. The lady eagerly demanded if the child was within which had been for ſome years under her care. The curate's wife curteſied very low,

low, and anſwered in the affirmative. "I am come to take him from you, (rejoined the lady,) and to pay the arrears due on his board.—Where is he?" "He is at church, madam, (replied Mrs. H.) but I hope you will not take him from us;—he is ſuch a comfort, that I would rather keep him for nothing than loſe him;—oh! he is the niceſt little fellow!" Mrs. H. then ſtepped to the church, and returned with her own ſon, whom ſhe had frequently before taught to believe himſelf in the actual ſituation of his playfellow, and who was now informed that his real parent had come to ſee him, and that if he behaved kindly he ſhould be rewarded.

On his entrance, the lady ran to him, and folded him in her embrace. The lad, naturally ſubtle and inſtructed, hung upon her arm, while the tears of remembrance ſtole down her cheek, and hid themſelves in her handkerchief. After an interregnum of ſilence, the lady obſerved, "He looks well,—he is a nice boy,—I hope he will

will be a good man." "I hope I ſhall," ſaid her young charge, and he looked up in her face with the countenance of ſimplicity and innocence.

The lady next deſired Mrs. H. to mention the amount of the arrears, which, being ſtrongly written on the good wife's memory, were ready caſt up. The account was ſettled to Mrs. H.'s ſatisfaction, after which the lady propoſed to hear the curate finiſh his ſermon, and conſigned herſelf to the direction of her newly-found charge.

Mrs. H. now flattered herſelf that ſhe had mounted her ſon the firſt ſtep up the ladder of ambition, and, fearing that her huſband might expoſe her, if the lady ſhould previouſly ſpeak to him, ſhe ran to the veſtry, and, when her huſband entered it, informed him, in a trite manner, that a viſitor had been with her, and had ſettled for and was to remove the young Horatio; that ſhe had taken the advantage of her ignorance, and ſubſtituted her own ſon,—

ſon,—a trifling circumſtance, which could make no great odds to the lady, but might to them; and, as Horatio was in place, there was no occaſion to ſpeak of him;—and, in ſhort, that ſhe had done as ſhe thought beſt. The parſon cared very little for the diſpoſal of his lawful heir in any way, if it removed him for the better; but he felt very deeply about the deception, and heſitated in his own mind between the propriety of immediately diſcloſing the truth on the one hand, and the fears of domeſtic reſentment on the other.

The ſervice however was over at the uſual time, and the parſon returned in the uſual way; that is, he returned alone. No ſon, no lady, entered; and Mrs. Heiligkeit, after an afternoon of ſuſpenſe and anxiety, ſaw herſelf robbed of her boy, and childleſs,—from the contrary effect of her deception.

The fact was ſuch as it really appears to be; the lady handed her ſuppoſed ſon into a poſt-chaiſe at the ſkirts of the village, and

and the advantages of variety and good treatment ſoon reconciled the young traveller to the change. They continued their journey till they reached the country-ſeat, a little beyond Berlin, where new endearments, new relationſhips, and other connections, almoſt obliterated in his young mind the recollection of the little village of Grunen, and which could offer no material inducement to return. The poor parſon ſubmitted with a Chriſtian meekneſs to the loſs of his adulterous offspring, and Mrs. H reconciled herſelf to it from the certain hope that her dutiful child would be raiſed to an affluent ſituation, the ſuperabundance of which, through the channels of filial gratitude, would flow back upon herſelf.

Hope bore up the ſinking fondneſs of the curate's wife, and, when this balm of life drooped a little, ſhe found a revivifying cordial in the company of Schmelt: here ſhe could inquire into the conduct of Horatio, and vent her ſpleen on him at

at the conſequences of her own miſconduct. To the boy's behaviour, however, his maſter always did juſtice: his affability was his praiſe, and this very excellence involved Mr. S. Mrs. H. and himſelf in an aukward predicament.

It has been remarked before, that a frequency of viſits took place between the grocer and the curate's wife. Mrs. H. had taken the opportunity, while her huſband was paying a long viſitation to the ſick, to indulge herſelf with a cup of the beſt tea at her friend's, who, on theſe occaſions, produced a liquor, which, made by the hands of his *douce amie*, and illuminated with ſome of the beſt aqua mirabilis, was not inferior to nectar, or 'any thing that ever was made.' When the tea-things had retired, the potent juice of the grape acted more powerfully on their paſſions than their prudence; the ſparkling glaſs threw ſome of its beams into the countenance of Mrs. H. and abſolutely ſet the overſeer on fire. Mr. S. firſt drew near to the agreeable

agreeable form of the parſon's wife, and then with a little ſtruggle placed her on his knee. It ſo happened, at this juncture, that Horatio had mounted up-ſtairs to oblige a neighbour by aſking a queſtion. Mr. S. was in the act of ſaluting her when he opened the door, and deranged the harmony of the ſcene. A mutual confuſion enſued, till the offender related the object of his commiſſion, and Schmelt demanded how he dared to enter ſo abruptly. Horatio replied with ſimplicity, that, if, he had acted with impropriety, he had only followed his maſter's example. Schmelt felt the ſarcaſm, but ſtifled his anger, at the ſame time anſwering his queſtion, and commending him for his civility.

Nothing could however exceed the alarm which took place in the boſom of the curate's wife. It was neceſſary to the credit of the parties that it ſhould remain as ſecret as poſſible; and, as ſhe did not ſtand very high in the opinion of the young intruder, the more danger was to be apprehended.

prehended. The unluckly pair too late ſeated themſelves at a reſpectable diſtance, and the remainder of the afternoon was occupied in deviſing the beſt means of preventing the growth of the diſcovery. They knew life too well to ſuppoſe that his youth was incompetent to conceive the line which bounded a propriety of conduct. Mrs. H. gave him ſixpence in going out, and, on the following morning, his maſter informed him that he was himſelf going to Frankfort on buſineſs, and, by way of indulgence, he ſhould accompany him.

Horatio gladly embraced the offer, and prepared his wardrobe at a moment's notice. The novelty was alluring to a young mind, and he ſwallowed the bait with avidity. Indeed, it was now time that he had fixed on ſome poſitive mode of obtaining his future exiſtence. The curate knew this ſtep was proper; he knew farther that his own knowledge of the dead languages had ſcarcely kept him alive, and that he could not aſſiſt him till he had got the lectureſhip.

In their progreſs, they took in the lofty building and buſy commerce of ſeveral large towns, objects which are not the produce of humble villages and by-roads.—It was natural the heart ſhould wiſh to reſide where the eye found delight, and Schmelt ſeized with preciſion the opportunity to aſk how he ſhould like a reſidence in ſuch a buſy ſcene. The anſwer was preciſely that of an active mind, which his maſter applauded, and then raiſed obſtructions upon the impoſſibily of doing at home without him. The hope of Horatio was ebbing very faſt, when they arrived at Frankfort, where Schmelt repaired to the houſe of a friend, whoſe buſineſs laid in procuring *good* ſervants for the *beſt* of maſters and miſtreſſes. The houſe of Mr. Neiderkof, by trade a cheeſemonger, was recommended as an excellent ſituation, and here Horatio, after having been the whole of one forenoon on liking, was bound apprentice, Schmelt paying down as a premium

mium the money due to him for his yearly ſalary.

Mr. Schmelt, at parting, promiſed him if he behaved well, he would be a friend to him at his death, and then took his leave. Horatio ſtood higher in Schmelt's eſteem than he imagined; for, judging only from appearances, he conſtrued his maſter's churliſh and abſolute manner of ſpeech into diſlike; but here he miſtook his character.

Before we proceed farther, we ſhall give a ſketch of the noble family of the Neiderkofs. Biography is one of the moſt chirurgical and uſeful parts of hiſtory; it lays open the heart. Mr. N. had elevated himſelf from the vale to its ſummit, but he had not diſcovered the path to reſpectability. No one could boaſt of a greater variety of juvenile ſervants, nor could any thing be more regular than the dates of their entry and diſcharge. Sometimes they 'reigned a month,' but they were generally in the wane at full and change of

the moon. Like birds of paſſage, they ſet their foot on the threſhhold only to take flight again. Various were the cauſes for which they migrated, but a general unanimity prevailed never to return. On this account therefore, and the difficulty of bending theſe ſtubborn twigs, he fixed Horatio before he became better informed, and whoſe recent arrival had prevented him from forming connexions and receiving communications from the boys in the vicinity.

His ſpouſe was the outline of economy in human ſhape. He hated ſuperfluities, money excepted, and his wife had nothing objectionable in this point, neither in dreſs, fatneſs, nor ſpeech. The courtſhip of Mr. and Mrs. Neiderkof had commenced at the counter, in a dialogue deſcriptive of the hardneſs of the times, and the firm reſolution the lady had taken, either to ſee them or her own condition amended, before ſhe precipitately yielded up the maiden charms of thirty-five to any man. Theſe

were

were the insignia of a superior soul in the mind of Neiderkopf, and the symptoms of it soon began to expand. The happy day was for a short time protracted, that an advantage might taken of certain high festivals, in which the marriage-ceremony is given for the trouble of fetching.

In person, Mrs. N. was the counterpart of her disposition. She was short and slender; her face was made after the Chinese construction, much concaved under the cheek-bones: strong lines marked the whole visage, and, on her sharp nose, (though he scarcely could read,) Mr. N. saw legibly written pounds, shillings, and pence. Her education had been gathered in the great school of the world, and consisted of vulgarisms, barbarisms, anachronisms, pleonisms, &c. Her science laid in a variety of physical and culinary receipts, a good knowledge of characters, and the art of making things go farther than any one else. Profound in her *vulgar* arithmetic, she solved small questions by the powers

of her head: not even the Ready Reckoner could be more prompt than herſelf. Theſe were all important concerns, and it would have been ſurpriſing if they had not produced the effect we have mentioned.

In a few months the tokens of pregnancy became viſible, and, at the honeſt period of ten months, Mrs. Neiderkopf became a mother and a nurſe. Whether the rancidity of the air, or the ſmallneſs of the circle in which the infant moved, contracted its ſize and injured its health, we do not pretend to aſcertain, but it is incontrovertible, that, at the ordinary age when children walk and ſpeak, it was among that ſpecies of the animal creation called zoophytes, or animated *fungi*. The efforts of Nature are nevertheleſs powerful; the weak plant raiſed itſelf, though thrown upon a flinty ſoil, and bore, from its ſhortneſs of ſtature and pallidy of hue, a reproach upon the parents who had ſo ſparingly adminiſtered the cheap reſtoratives of air and exerciſe.

The

The daughter had obtained her thirteenth year at the time of Horatio's entry into the family, who found experimentally that the change of ſituation and confinement he experienced in a larger city were deſtitute of the comforts of Schmelt's table and the honeſt welcome of the old curate. He bore a conſiderable time the ſuſpicions and threats of his new maſter, until at length his feelings ſought relief in a long letter of detail to his foſter father, the parſon. The anſwer he received contained rather an unpalatable doctrine to a young ſpirit; it recommended paſſive obedience and non-reſiſtance till the term of his agreement ſhould expire, when his arms ſhould be open to receive him.

Horatio thought the advice good, but too ſlow in its operation. Deprived of the comforts of conſolation in this quarter, at night he unburthened his mind to his fellow-ſervant, who like him was diſſatisfied with his condition, but from the proximity of his enlargement had no ſuch

active motive to diſobedience. The bed is generally conſidered as the ſanctum ſanctorum of ſecrecy, but in this inſtance it was invaded: his maſter overheard a ſevere animadverſion upon himſelf, and a reſolution he had formed of either running home, or ſeeing if fortune would not be more propitious to him in the field than at the counter. The Argus of the night appeared the Jupiter of the morning, and Horatio was ſummoned in the dining-room to be thraſhed into good order. The muſcular ſyſtem of a healthy youth did not ſuffer quietly ſuch a plan of redreſs without an appropriate return; his maſter's forcible arguments were returned in a much better ſtyle; and, in laying him at his feet, he overſet a bargain of the cheapeſt and beſt ſet of china ware in Frankfort.

The wreck of animate and inanimate matter from its noiſe ſoon drew the intereſted parties to the ſpot, and preſented a good original for a caricature. In the adjourned

adjourned debate of the evening, many denunciations of exemplary puniſhment were projected: miſs wondered that papa ſuffered him to remain another moment in the houſe, and mama inſiſted that he ſhould be ſent to priſon, not ſo much for the aſſault on her huſband as the broken china; but while each threatened, nothing was more diſtant than the intent to execute.—Neiderkof knew his honeſty to well to part with him, the wife perceived his perſon and manner brought many a female cuſtomer, and the daughter thought there was ſomething too intereſting in him to forego the pleaſure of ſeeing. Many a time has ſhe placed to the charge of her own delicate appetite the nice bits in reſerve for a ſecond appearance, which the rapacious tooth of Horatio had deſtroyed; but theſe were indulgencies which gratified the *palate*, but did not reach the *heart*. That ſenſitive plant was doomed to be agitated by a taſte rather mental than material, and which was gravitating towards

an attractive and long-forgotten female, from the will of irreſiſtible fate, in the ſhape of accident.

CHAP III.

THE ſon of Mrs. Heiligkeit, who had ſuddenly ruſhed into the boſom of good fortune, ſoon forgot the poor curate and his wife. The kindneſs of his lady-mother had remitted to his *nurſe* one or two letters of his being well, but the information of her reſidence was withheld. Tutors of the firſt kind were provided for his inſtruction, who, in ſpite of the fondneſs of the mother, and the perverſeneſs of the ſon, rendered him accompliſhed and engaging. To quell the ebullitions of youth, which were conſidered as the indulgencies

indulgencies of home, he was ſent to the college of Spires, where the ſtricteſt diſcipline was inadequate to check the conſequences of a vicious connexion, and carry him through the proper term of his ſtudies. Had he endeavoured to qualify himſelf in the cultivation of the minor vices, he would have exhibited an abundant harveſt. To defray his extraordinary loſſes at the gaming-table and meretricious expences, he had recourſe to dangerous freedoms with the hand-writing of a nobleman, which might have terminated fatally, if the interference of his mother had not prevented the ignominious conſequence. He however received a baniſhment from the houſe of his ſuppoſed grandfather, and a renunciation on the part of his diſconſolate parent; and it was at this criſis that he firſt conceived the propriety of addreſſing a letter to the poor village of Grunen, to ſecure the friendſhip of his mother in caſe of contingencies. The anſwer he received ſeverely reproached

him for his long ſilence, and requeſted his interference with his high pſeudo-relations in the parſon's favour, who had loſt the lectureſhip, on the death of Gotwig, ſome years before, and was from his infirmities neither capable of filling the duties of a paſtor nor a huſband.

This intelligence alarmed the young libertine, who foreſaw that no pecuniary mine could be opened in this quarter, tho' it might ſerve as a retreat. Involved in the approximating evils of neglect and poverty, he thought that ſtratagem would rekindle the ſparks of affection which miſconduct had ſtifled. If he did not love virtue, he could affect it. A fit of illneſs which now attacked him came very opportunely to corroborate a ſubmiſſive and repentant epiſtle he had previouſly written. As his ſickneſs drew to its criſis, he wrote like a ſaint, and the hoping parent read like a true believer: ſhe flew to aſcertain the fact, and then laboured to reſtore her regenerated heir.

When

When he was recovered, the lady's father, rigid to his firſt determination, would not permit his return home, till he had merited, by a year or two of probation, his claim to forfeited favour. By the intereſt of his mother he was placed in the army; but, being averſe to purſuits of danger, he diſpoſed of the commiſſion, and dutifully laid the money at the foot of the generous donor.

His reformation was now placed beyond a doubt, and he was entered in the ſuite of an embaſſy about to proceed to France.—An annuity was added by his indulgent mother, to ſupport his dignity, and its perpetuity was during pleaſure. In the midſt of theſe favourable proſpects he accompanied the embaſſy, in which ſituation we ſhall leave him to look at new objects in the city of Frankfort.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

AT one of the extremities of Frankfort dwelt the widow Brun and her only daughter, Liſette. They lived in a handſome but retired manner from the world, at the ſame time they were independent of its frowns. The mother of Liſette was a devotee, and her ſmall family preſented ſome of thoſe uneaſineſſes which corrode ſecretly the moſt happy abodes.

Mrs. Brun in her religious opinions always acted at ſecond hand, and was regulated by the advice of the prieſt who encouraged her prejudices. Among theſe, her daughter had but little ſhare; their habits

habits were very diſſimilar, and their tempers were as much at variance. Liſette might be ſaid to be an intereſting object, not only from the ſymmetry of her perſon, but the weight of her property. She had been her father's favourite; indeed ſhe was the only child then living. By the word favourite in this inſtance is meant that he preferred the branch to the root of the tree, and conſigned nearly all his property to gild the tender leaves. His widow loved wealth, but he had unfortunately forgotten this in his will, and limited her to a narrow ſufficiency, while he confined the guardianſhip of his daughter to her care, whoſe fortune was to be ſurrendered up, if Liſette married with her conſent. Thus ſituated, Liſette became an object of contract, in which ſhe propoſed to make the moſt of a diſadvantageous bargain, and ſhe flew for conſolation and advice to the principal religious of the convent of St. Juliers, ſituated about three miles from her houſe. One wing of this building was

dedicated

dedicated to the ſervice of a nunnery, and had a ſeparate communication. The Abbé, who aſſiſted in performing the devotional duties, had lately ſucceeded at the earneſt requeſt of his aged predeceſſor, and was in ſanctity and rigidity his counterpart, notwithſtanding he was much younger. His zeal was equal to his diſcernment, and his humility rivalled both. In fine, the widow had introduced him into her houſe for the purpoſes of devout and private converſations, and he ſoon became a confidant and a counſellor.

Furniſhed by nature with a full and round-toned health, Liſette was at this time poſſeſſed of charms to faſcinate, and capable of returning the delightful ſenſations which an union of love and ſentiment inſpire. Her intercourſe with the world had prevented her from diſcriminating the ſilken ſhades of ceremony and etiquette, but her outline of propriety was ſtrong and boldly marked: her mind, open and li-

beral,

beral, told her mother that the limitations under which ſhe exiſted were not the intention of her beloved father, and that ſhe would not abridge the inclinations of her heart, when an eligible opportunity ſhould offer for their expanſion.

In this dilemma, two projects only preſented themſelves to Mrs. Brun; either to perſuade Liſette to enter the convent, or provide herſelf for the increaſing propenſities of her charge. She deliberately weighed them both: the firſt was more conformable to her bigotry, and the latter to her advantage. The firſt was however her favourite project, but it was alſo the moſt difficult. To immure a thoughtleſs young mind in 'cold damps and diſmay' would doubtleſs be a work of ſupererogation; the holy confeſſor would almoſt canonize the deed, and Liſette be placed under a pious teacher, whoſe concern for her eternal intereſts had increaſed with her diſpoſition to become refractory.

Liſette

Liſette went with her mother frequently *à la confeſſe*, but Liſette had nothing to confeſs,—except that a few more of the vanities of this wicked world, as well as its amuſements, would have pleaſed her much better than the enumeration of beads and roſaries. The Abbé always heard her with the greateſt ſolemnity, and might in his turned have owned, (but what tonſured guardian of celibacy would have dared to own ſuch a thing!) that he himſelf needed more abſolution than the bending devotee before him.

On the other hand, Liſette's mother balanced the probabilities and reſults of a fit match for her daughter: to provide a right object was of the higheſt importance to herſelf, and it required management to do it with effect. A ſudden declaration of her intention would have induced Liſette to think the meaſure was ſecondary to an unknown cauſe, which would require time to develope. Mrs. Brun knew that a lover preſented apparently by accident would be

be more likely to make an impreſſion on the mind of Liſette than one preſented by regular approaches, or even the injunctions of his Holineſs. How this effect was produced, but in a contrary manner, we ſhall proceed to detail.

Mrs. Brun had an old female friend, who generally came to reſide with her for a ſhort time at the Fete Dieu. This good lady had a huſband, whoſe heretical diſpoſition ſeldom viſited the ſame connexions which ſhe did, and whoſe view of things had nothing uniform, except a conſtant contrariety. Mr. and Mrs. Freyherr had retired from buſineſs, but not from care; this little evil exhibited itſelf in the ſettlement of their ſon, and aroſe from a different notion of religious things,—the unlettered mother being attached to divine ſervice in *Latin*, and the father to its performance in the *vulgar tongue*.

Young Freyherr, who was a harmleſs, ſpirited, and eccentric fellow, neither cared about one or the other mode, or any mode

at

at all, but he was not to be conſulted in that or the following buſineſs.

Mrs. Brun, then, after enumerating her own wants and Liſette's abundance, propoſed to Mrs. F. that their long friendſhip ſhould be indelibly be ſtamped by a marriage between the young folks. A perfect coincidence of opinion took place on the propriety of it, after which followed the conditions of the treaty, viz. that a handſome bonus ſhould revert from Liſette's fortune to her injured ſelf. This was aſſented to, and the next thing was the plan.

Mrs. Freyherr, from certain ſuſpicions, which were well founded, had an idea that her ſon had a lurking affection yet alive, the object of which ſhe had ſome time ago removed, becauſe ſhe was neither rich nor reſpectable enough for his wife; and, if it were not ſo, her hopes were but little amended, as her dear ſpouſe had partly affianced him to a friend's daughter, who was of a ſimilar perſuaſion with himſelf.

The

The female Machieval, therefore, knowing that firſt impreſſions are the ſtrongeſt, directed a letter to her ſon, who was then on a viſit at ſome diſtance on the ſide of Frankfort, in which ſhe requeſted him to make that city in his route, as ſhe found her health indifferent, and his filial attentions neceſſary. Previous to his coming, ſhe requeſted a line of the preciſe time of his arrival, that ſhe might meet him on the road. In the courſe of a week a dutiful anſwer was received, in which he ſtated that he ſhould fly to meet her, notwithſtanding he had had a trifling misfortune, in laming his foot and breaking his noſe by a fall from his horſe.

This was afflicting intelligence to the female contrivers, who had caculated much upon young Freyherr's figure ſtriking deeply into the heart of Liſette. The moſt profound ſecrecy was obſerved, and the ladies determined to meet him on the road, and examine him head and foot, before he made his entrée. In the ſyſtem of

of love, as well as nature, there are certain attractions and repulſions; and, however the lover might feel the former, on the part of Liſette the latter would be the inevitable conſequence.

There was a third perſon whom it became neceſſary to conſult, and this was Monſieur Bernard, the Abbé; for, imprimis, nothing could be proſperous without his ſanction; and, ſecundus, he had promiſed to offer up maſſes and prayers for her entry into the convent. He was accordingly ſent for, and while the attentions with which he was received marked their high reſpect for his character, his unfeigned anxiety as clearly evinced his concern for their intereſts. He liſtened deliberately to their project, and contended that any advice would be premature, till Liſette had had an interview with the young gentleman, and formed her own opinion of his perſon and accompliſhments. The purity of the holy office, he obſerved, was averſe to ſchemes founded on deception, but,

but, as the motive was good, he would abſolve the criminality; a convent, nevertheleſs, he maintained, was the better ſituation for Liſette, who would there attend on the ſervices of the great Mater Dei, and be induced to aſſign over to the uſe of the church that droſs which is the root of all evil.

When Mr. Freyherr had arrived half way on his route, he determined to ſleep that night at the inn, and reach Frankfort at a gentle pace on the next day. Young Freyherr was introduced into a room, where a ſtranger was ſitting before the fire. Such an acquiſition was preferable to ſilence, and proved unexpectedly ſo in this inſtance.

The gentlemen ſoon entered deeply into converſation over the bottle, and began to elucidate the old adage, *in vino veritas*. When Freyherr called on his gueſt for a toaſt. he gave him the gay Liſette. The toaſt being drank, Freyherr aſked him if he could couple a gentleman with the lady.

" To

"To be ſure, (replied the other;) I will give you what is likely to be, Mr. and Mrs. Freyherr!"

"Freyherr! (exclaimed the young man in return;) why, that is my name!—You do not mean me, ſir?"

"Your name may poſſibly be Freyherr, but it is impoſſible that I could refer to you, ſince I have not the honour of your acquaintance. I merely anticipated the marriage as a thing ſpoken of among friends, who have heard from an old lady that her ſon was coming expreſsly to captivate a young female, the daughter of the friend at whoſe houſe ſhe reſides.—If I have ſaid too much, I beg pardon."

"No, ſir; you have not ſaid enough: you have excited my curioſity, and I hope you will indulge it by proceeding."

"Then, ſir, it reſults that a plan has been laid by the two ladies to ſurpriſe the young lady and you into a liking for each other. She is a girl whoſe perſon might attract a thoughtleſs eye, but her diſpoſi-

tion

tion,—that I am ſorry to hear report ſpeaks of as——"

"Her diſpoſition,—well, ſir, proceed."

"Excuſe me; our intimacy is too young to ſay more; and, as you are not intereſted beyond curioſity, it is culpable to ſcatter cenſure."

"I like your delicacy. To be admitted to your confidence, I muſt give you mine. I am the perſon alluded to, and ſhall proceed tomorrow to Frankfort, at the requeſt of my mother, who has aſſigned ill-health as the cauſe for my perſonal attendance; perhaps it may involve another motive."

"That it aſſuredly does, for Mrs. Freyherr is not ill.—The inclinations of the young lady are fixed upon every new object, and her choice of the male creation is much directed by a firm and athletic figure. On this account, her mother is the more anxious to ſettle her, conſcious that ere long ſhe will ſettle herſelf. This, ſir, ſhould make you circumſpect, if, on the

firſt interview, you ſhould be inclined to make a ſecond."

"Truly, there is no danger; my heart is already diſpoſed of, a circumſtance which my mother imagines has lulled itſelf to ſleep; now, as I have never undeceived her, I ſhould find myſelf in a diſagreeable dilemma, if the young lady ſhould throw the glove at your humble ſervant."

"Not at all; all that you need is to aſſume a character the reverſe of her taſte, and ſhe will ſoon think you either a knave or a fool."

"Faith! then, I ſhall adminiſter your recipe in ſuch a manner, that the whole ſex would be diſguſted, if I were the only man on earth; ſo the devil is in it if my incognita, amidſt her general love for mankind, will wiſh to include me in the number!"

The evening paſſed off pleaſantly, and at the ſober hour of ten the companions parted, leaving Freyherr to form on his pillow the counter-plan he meant to purſue.

He

He thought he would attack his mother at her own weapon,— ill health, and follow it up by an adequate appearance; convinced that a long beard, an arm in a ſling, and a foot wrapped in flannel *died a countleſs number of times*, were certain antidotes to the *penchant* of any female. He procured the neceſſary requiſites at the inn, and, having ſhrouded himſelf in a large horſeman's coat, entered a poſt-chaiſe, where he metamorphoſed his figure. After changing horſes at the laſt ſtage, he arrived in the evening at Frankfort, whence he proceeded to pay his reſpects to Liſette.

Now it happened, that, during the time he was journeying towards his mother, ſhe was performing the ſame taſk towards him, in company with Mrs. Brun. They occupied a room which overlooked the road, aſſured that nothing could eſcape them.— When Mr. Freyherr alighted, his altered appearance might have deceived the deceiver himſelf, much leſs his female inſpectors, who put up ſeveral ſhort prayers

for the unknown invalid. The ladies, therefore, waited patiently for a *better arrival*, and the ſon made the deſired port before they began to ſail back again.

At duſk, Freyherr knocked at the door, and the ſervant demanded his buſineſs, a caution Liſette had particularly been deſired to obſerve during their abſence. The young gentleman anſwered by aſking in return if Mrs. Freyherr was not there, and if he could not be permitted to ſee her.—The name and the harmleſs appearance of the perſon calmed every ſuſpicion, and he entered the parlour. By the time Liſette had deſcended, he had arranged two chairs for himſelf and his gouty foot, and was ſeated comfortably by the fire-ſide.—Liſette ſaluted him, and demanded if he wiſhed to ſee Mrs. Freyherr.

"I came for that purpoſe, (replied the invalid peeviſhly;) but, before I am queſtioned any farther, pray get me ſome port-wine, for this curſed gout requires good liquor; and, when you bring it, keep your diſtance;

diſtance; for a drop falling only near my toe would drive me a mile beyond madneſs!"—

"Yes, ſir, (ſaid Liſette, ſtaring;) and you muſt hear in return that my mother is out, and ſhe has the keys of the liquor-cloſet."

"Perhaps to guard her empty bottles.—Well, if you cannot get wine within doors, you know how to get me——"

"Yes, any thing, if we pleaſe; but I ſhould firſt like to know the name of the gentleman I am to oblige."

"Mr. Henry Freyherr."

"I beg your pardon, ſir. I preſume you are the *huſband* of our good viſitor. How glad will ſhe be to ſee you, your arrival is ſo unexpected!"

"Still in the wrong; for I am not her huſband, nor is my viſit unexpected."

"Then pray who are you?"

"Her ſon, her Alpha and Omega, her firſt and laſt born."

"It would indeed be preſuming to ſay you may not be a ſon of that lady, but I frankly confeſs that I do not believe it. Your looks are twenty years beyond the poſſibility of it, and I ſhould have been appriſed of this viſit, if your ſtatement were true."

This was a doubt of the young gentleman's identity which he had not thought to provide for: he was therefore proceeding to detail the fact by his knowledge of family events, when the maid came in to the room to put the fire-place in order.—Great diſcoveries are often produced by trivial means, and the nice obſervance of cauſe and effect. In this inſtance, the girl, not being aware of the ſpace her *derrière* occupied, in retreating backwards from ſweeping the hearth rather forcibly touched the gouty foot of the ſuſpected viſitor.

Liſette, whoſe eye obſerved the colliſion, and who had learned from her father the

the exclamation that follows the gentleſt touch, was ſurpriſed to hear the ſtatements of his family-authenticity continued. In a moment Liſette conceived the idea of an impoſtor, and, careleſsly advancing towards him, ſhe reſolved to let the motion of a book ſhe held in her hand approach ſo near his foot as to ſatisfy her ſuſpicion. The unpractiſed adventurer with an exclamation laid his hand on the place to guard it. Liſette, convinced that the only gout he felt was on the tongue, now became alarmed for the ſafety of herſelf and the houſe. Prudence required that ſhe ſhould not wait till the return of her mother before ſhe removed a ſuſpicious character, who ſeemed to have a pair of legs leſs dangerous in fetters than in flannel. Liſette then without emotion left the room, and diſpatched the maid for a young neighbour, who occaſionally aſſiſted the guardian of the peace, the latter being from a forty years conſtableſhip rather incapacitated and purblind.

On the entrance of this champion, Freyherr conceived he was one of the admirers of Liſette, whom his travelling friend had deſcribed. The opponent, obſerving Freyherr's arm bound up, doubted not of a ſpeedy victory. An inquiſitive ſtare filled up the firſt minute, and then this kind of dialogue enſued.

"I am come here for to look after you, ſir."

"Oh! are you ſo? then you may ſit down, and ſee me: a lame man will not eaſily run away."

"That's as it happens;—but, to be more free, I am come to ſee you don't carry nothing off."

"Why, that is indeed more free, as you ſay; but you may be eaſy in that particular, when you ſee that I am laid up."

"Laid up or laid out makes no odds. I am here to take charge on you, and if you cannot carry yourſelf, why, then, by—by the young lady's orders, I muſt."

"I

"I ſuppoſe, young man, you are one of thoſe who have a *penchant* for the young lady."

"I have a *penſion* from the young lady! No, no, I ſhall take nothing from the lady, except it be ſuch fellows as you."

"Mark me, if you do not ceaſe that ſcurrility, you will ſoon *edify* by the leſſons I ——"

"*Defy* me, do you!"

Here the dialogue was cloſed by the officer advancing to lay hold of him, and as ſuddenly retreating at the manner of Freyherr, who, jumping from the chair, ſeized the poker with his rheumatic arm, and ſtood entrenched behind three chairs and a table, firm as Hercules on his legs. A parley was demanded by the aſſailant, while Liſette, ſeeing this unexpected balance of power, with the marks of terror depicted on her countenance, ruſhed out of the room, and made to the door, followed by the maid.

"He muſt be ſome thief," ſaid the latter.

"Heaven protect us, ſince the officer cannot!" exclaimed Liſette.

"So heaven will! (ejaculated a voice, ruſhing from over the way;) here is a volunteer in your ſervice: I have the will to aſſiſt, and where there is a will, the means will ſoon follow."

Liſette pointed out in a few words what ſhe ſuſpected and wanted, and the maid conducted the ſtranger to the ſcene of action.

"If your intention be bad, (ſaid he, addreſſing Freyherr,) it is impoſſible you can effect it; if you reſiſt, our force will overmatch you. None but a wretch would take the advantage of a defenceleſs female, and none but a coward ſuffer it."

"This is another admirer, (ſaid Freyherr to himſelf:)—Well, ſir, I do not mean to contend with reaſon, but rudeneſs. I ſhall withdraw, and am ſorry for the alarm I have occaſioned."

Tran-

Tranquillity was now reſtored within doors, and the kind viſitor, in making his bow, received the thanks of Liſette. "A favour (ſaid ſhe) where the diſproportion of danger and reward is ſo conſiderable is a great obligation.—A friend in need is truly a friend."

Mr. Freyherr, in going out, crowded together a number of awkward apologies, declared that he was the perſon he really pretended to be, and that tomorrow, when his mother was at home, he would return, and clear up the adventure. Liſſette readily admitted his excuſes, and conſidered him in a better view as his diſtance increaſed.

The officer and Freyherr went out together, but the latter, chagrined at the diſagreeable termination of the buſineſs, vented his choler on the former, when, words becoming too weak, they proceeded to an expreſſive mode of *ſhort-hand writing*, which, after a quarter of an hour's combat, made its characters viſible on the features of the parties.

The officer had been alarmingly beaten, and at the close of the engagement it naturally happened that Mrs. Brun and her friend, returning from their unsuccessful expedition, enquired the cause, and censured very freely the combatants for not having more wit than to endanger the seat of it. On their arrival, Lisette enumerated her danger and escape from the villain who had assumed the name and person of Mrs. Freyherr's son. The ladies, satisfied that it could not be him, were heartily thankful for this interference of Providence, at the same time they determined to renew their trip the next day, making an excuse to Lisette for their absence, and ordering that the door should be opened only to the good Abbé.

How transparent are the best schemes! no sooner cemented, than subject to dissolution. While the family was at breakfast, and the dames were inwardly pregnant with the right adjustment of the proposed interview, a lady, called Fate, was busily unravelling

unravelling the ſilken ſtrings in which they had wound themſelves.

Freyherr, anxious to make an early apology, and no longer apprehenſive that Liſette would be captivated with a countenance ſo much damaged from the laſt night's encounter, determined to give an early proof of his dutifulneſs by attending at the breakfaſt-table. He thought his real ſituation would be a ſufficient puniſhment for his folly, which he reſolved to place to the account of inebriation. When he knocked at the door, the maid, on recognizing his perſon, ran into the parlour, exclaiming that the man who had terrified them laſt night was at the door, and demanded to ſpeak with Mrs. Freyherr. A conſternation enſued, and, before an order could be given to ſhut him out, he preſented himſelf at the table.

Liſette uttered an exclamation of fear, her mother joined in the apprehenſion, while the young gentleman, taking hold of his mother's hand, declared his happineſs by

by her looks to ſee her ſo much recovered. The mother could not indeed deny the relationſhip, but ſhe manifeſted her chagrin, by aſking her ſon how he could dare, in a civiliſed houſe, and among ladies too, to make an appearance in ſuch a disfigured ſtate.

Freyherr modeſtly replied that his duty to her had exceeded the propriety of etiquette, and that his anxiety for her health having haſtened him on the road, he had drank rather freely, and conceived in that ſtate the joke which had been ſo ſeverely turned upon himſelf. To Liſette he offered his regrets for the terror he had occaſioned, and conſented to ſubmit to any penance ſhe might impoſe; who replied that his attention in future to the verbal correction of his mother, and never expoſing himſelf again to ridicule, would afford her ſufficient compenſation.

The looks, indeed, of Mrs. Freyherr amply demonſtrated what ſhe felt within, as ſhe alternately regarded the battered viſag

of her ſon, and detected the contemptuous glances Liſette threw at him. Even the beauty of the latter was much eclipſed by being in a half-worn undreſs, and the marks of laſt night's affright viſible on her countenance.

The ſcheme having thus defeated itſelf, Mrs. Freyherr's rage burſt out into open rupture, till, at length, her friend thought it neceſſary to check her volubility by obſerving, that one young perſon's miſconduct was the advantage of another; and, in this inſtance, it had been fortunate; for, if her ſon had come with more advantages to ſecond him, might not Liſette have loſt her heart, and would not that have been a ſad thing, when he is given to liquor and ſtrong drink? while, ſhe, poor thing, deſirous of no other viſitor than the reverend Abbé, would have loſt her maiden affections, her happineſs, and indulgent mother, at the ſame time!

"I feel the implication, madam, (returned Freyherr,) and aſſure you, that, on the

firſt point, I have not been that character you would inſinuate; and, for the latter, to ſpeak in explanation, the confeſſion you have juſt made of the want of all male acquaintance in your daughter is ſo much at variance with the account I received, that I rendered my behaviour other than what it would have been, that her *general* affections might not faſten themſelves on me. I have, I am ſorry to obſerve, ſo far exceeded what I intended, that I am now labouring under your daughter's diſpleaſure. The ill health of my mother, which ſhe urged as the motive for my coming here, was——"

"I heard you mention that before, (ſaid Liſette, who felt uneaſy at what had been ſaid, and heard his explanation with wonderment,) but that circumſtance is a miſtake: Mrs. Freyherr has not been ill, nor was I acquainted with your intended viſit. The intelligence you have received on the road is a calumny; whoever has advanced the report, would not dare to ſupport it.

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I am ſorry for the rencontre of laſt night, but the faults of each may be attributed to the deception under which each laid.—I have conferred much of the contempt I felt for you to them," and while ſhe ſpoke this, ſhe turned towards the old ladies.

The ſon now interrogated the mother on the motive which had drawn him from his friend's houſe; the mother, confuſed at the ill-timed queſtion, ſaid that her anxiety to ſee him had occaſioned it, but this explanation raiſed a ſmile, when the manner of her receiving him was conſidered. Liſette ſaw through the ſcheme to have ſurpriſed her into a liking for young Freyherr, and Mrs. Brun was diſguſted with him and his mother,—the firſt for his follies, and the latter for having concealed them. In ſhort, the viſit had an abrupt termination. Mr. Freyherr, breathing denunciations againſt his travelling acquaintance for his falſe account of Liſette, and vexed at the conduct of his mother, returned to re-

viſit

viſit his friend, in the hope of hearing of certain loſt attractions, while Mrs. Freyherr quitted Frankfort, and left Liſette and her parent to regret the golden opportunity they had neglected of rendering themſelves more rich and happy.

Thus died a ſudden death the firſt matrimonal buſineſs that had aſſailed Liſette.

The neceſſity we are under of introducing new characters and connexions will excuſe the ſynonimy of beginning a new chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

ELLA had been in her juvenile days the particular playfellow of Liſette, and had received the amiable impreſſion when at ſchool from a ſimilarity of years and a correſpondence of habits. Ella found that the ability of Liſette ſaved her from the ſevere hand of the ſchoolmiſtreſs, and was a protecting barrier againſt the hoſtile attacks of the more bold and impetuous ſallies of feminine infancy. If the difficulties Ella experienced could be removed by friendſhip, or an aſſertion of her innocence was inſtrumental to her ſecurity, Liſette's little heart would rather have ſhared the ſtripes than by not exerting itſelf have left the event to chance.—Theſe kindneſſes were returned by Ella in

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a conſtant attention to her playfellow, and a regular participation of the preſents received from home; nay, her purchaſes of fruit, &c. were eaten with inſipidity, unleſs Liſette was a partaker of the harmleſs feaſt.

Ella enjoyed in theſe particulars immenſe advantages over her friend, whoſe weekly ſtipend was at the diſcretion of the governeſs, and depended on her preceding behaviour,—a circumſtance which, from Liſette's naiveté, diminiſhed the receipt of her money, and increaſed the charge to her parent, to whom an account of pocket-money was regularly made out, equal to the largeſt ſalary in the ſchool.—Their eſteem continued unabated till the period of leaving this plain academy for a more finiſhed one, and, when they parted, the beſt keepſakes and the moſt affectionate aſſurances of reciprocal friendſhip were exchanged. The years between infancy and womanhood had elapſed, but no communication had ſcarcely taken place ſince

their

their ſeparation, notwithſtanding which, the friendſhip of their younger years remained unabated. This defect, when Liſette came to years of diſcretion, was aſſignable to her mother's jealouſy, who objected to the receipt of any correſpondence ſhe did not firſt inſpect. Liſette conſidered this an infringement of the rights and privileges of ſecrecy. Even the liberty, if it were permitted, of opening her mother's letters, ſhe contended, would not juſtify the petty larceny; but Liſette's arguments, in theſe inſtances, were anſwered with ſhort ſentences and rough epithets. "You fooliſh girl, you are too young to know what is proper, and I have ſeen too much to be told."

Ella's reſidence was at Stettin, a conſiderable diſtance from Frankfort. Her father, La Somme, had declined buſineſs a ſhort time before, and, finding himſelf diſpoſed to indulge an inclination which the fatigues of an unremitting attention to buſineſs had hitherto prevented, he determined

termined to paſs a few months in reviſiting the ſcenes of his youth, and calling on thoſe friends who had been formed by time or connexions in trade. Some were in different parts of Flanders, and ſome in France; his gratitude was due to the kindneſſes of a part of them, and for many of the others he had contracted a reſpect from their fair and induſtrious habits, and to whoſe advancement he had been inſtrumental. Induced by theſe reaſons, as well as his health, he projected a ſummer-tour, and, as the expedition was intended for prudential purpoſes as well as amuſement, he wiſhed to make Ella his companion.

"What do you ſay, my dear, (ſaid he one day to Ella;) do you like the propoſal of going with me? I hope it will obliterate the anxieties which your mind has recently encountered."

"Yes, ſir, (replied Ella;) I have no pleaſure ſeparate from yours."

"But do you think, Ella, you can bear the fatigue?"

"Certainly,

"Certainly, ſir. If you can, ſurely I may."

"Well, then, my dear Ella, I ſhall introduce you to a number of new friends, among whom perhaps you will meet with one who may captivate your affections, and purloin them from me."

"Indeed, ſir, ſuch a thing is not unlikely; but a ſecond thought informs me that I am now more than ever attached to one whom in common with myſelf I am ſure you eſteem ſincerely, and without whoſe ſmile I ſhould find myſelf very unhappy. Can you gueſs, ſir?"

"Ha! my love; who can that be?"

"Nay, my good ſir, I muſt not make the queſtion and the anſwer, when you are the life of the myſtery; beſides, I am convinced that the object I ſpeak of has a pure affection for me, and it would be ungenerous to withhold a debt I am in gratitude bound to pay."

"Come, Ella, you are uncommonly gay to day, and have paſſed your jokes with

with ſome ſucceſs; but this is ſomewhat more ſerious. I earneſtly wiſh to know the new object that has attracted your regards."

"Well, then, my dear father, I have juſt named him;—who ſhould he be but yourſelf! to whom is my gratitude and affection due but to you! and I hope when your eye ſparkles as your tongue declares that this is "my Ella," that her heart will repeat with the ſame emotion, "Here is my kind protector,—my father!"

This confeſſion tranquilliſed the boſom of La Somme, who had but lately extricated her from the *égaremens* of the tender paſſion, one part of the intention of whoſe journey was to remove her from a ſecond connexion, which her inexperience had recently formed; but, as theſe are previous details, which ſecretly contributed to produce their preſent trip from Stettin, we ſhall not any farther anticipate its introduction.

Every

Every thing being arranged for their departure, La Somme, without any material circumſtance occurring, made the village of Schaffen in his route, which laid an eaſy and romantic walk from Frankfort. A very particular and once-unfortunate friend, a farmer, lived near the village, and who was at that time a tenant on La Somme's eſtate. Here he intended to paſs a week or two, and indulge the opportunity of reviſiting the ſcenes of his earlier years, where many a bloodleſs combat had been fought, and the paſtimes of the hour were the offspring of health and ſimplicity. Here he fancied, forty years back, ſtood the village-ſchool, and the ſpot where ſat the demagogue, ſupported by all the inſignia of ſcholaſtic tyranny; on the oppoſite ſide the uſher of the *black rod*, the executioner of his mandates: here was the place where with quivering lips he threw himſelf on the mercy of the maſter, and there the condemned hole, where

 puniſhment

puniſhment followed miſdemeanor; but theſe objects now no longer exiſted in their terrific ſtate: the "great teacher, Death," had obliterated the tutor, and the inſtruments of former terror were overgrown with unfriendly herbage and brier.

The remote cauſes which delight the human mind in its retroſpective paſſage through life are drawn from a comparative view of the important engagements which occupy it at the period of manhood rather than the juvenile ſtate. The unſullied purity of that age, the humble deſigns which were then to be accompliſhed, and the indifference of the mind to its future proſperity or misfortune, are conſiderations which give pleaſure on reflexion; and the view of the church where ſo often the decent ſervice has been performed,—the churchyard, under whoſe yew-tree many a game has been won and loſt,—and the oſier-bound graves of earth, over whoſe inactive tenantry many a leap has been made,—all theſe produce in the mind a pleaſing

pleaſing melancholy ſenſation on the viciſſitude of all ſublunary things, and the rapid progreſs we have made from that innocent period to a knowledge of the world and the termination of our exiſtence.

Ella's firſt anxiety, after her introduction to the farm-houſe of La Somme's friend, Martin, was to enquire the reſidence of her female ſchoolfellow, Liſette, which being without much difficulty effected, on the following day ſhe determined to ſurpriſe her by an unexpected viſit. At the ſight of each other, the difference between the ſtate of infancy and the approach to maturity occaſioned an involuntary doubt, that in a moment gave way to the emotions of joy, when the names of Ella and Liſette were mingled together. A reciprocity of affection recommenced, and as the young friends had many very important occurrences to canvas over, which had happened in the courſe of ſo many

years, and were too perſonal for the ear of an indifferent friend, they were reſerved till the ſtill hour of repoſe. Here every reſerve was baniſhed, and the tongue and ear alternately became active and paſſive agents.

Liſette found in the boſom of her friend more comfort than in the counſels of her mother and her reverend confeſſor. She laid opened all her wiſhes and views, and, ſuch is the conſtruction of the mind, that we find the oppreſſion weakened when the boſom of a confidant is made to participate in our ſuffering, although at the ſame time it be incapable of reverſing the cauſe. Innumerable domeſtic tales and love-ſtories of their own circular acquaintance roſe and ſet with the hours, till nature demanding reſt, Ella, with the ſame frankneſs, before ſinking to ſleep, promiſed next evening to relate the ſtate of her heart, and the predilection ſhe had lately felt for a gentleman in the army.

When

When the following night invited the friends to renew their confidence, Ella avowed that her mind was divided between love and duty, and that ſhe firmly hoped the indulgence of the former would never induce her to injure the latter. "Previous to my laſt connexion, (ſaid Ella,) I have unthinkingly given Mr. Albert Martin, whom my father has raiſed up and is yet much attached to, (the eldeſt ſon of his tenant Martin,) too much reaſon to conclude that I felt an unfeigned love for him; but at this moment of riper judgement, I can eaſily divide the paſſion he has miſconceived;—it was a warm eſteem, that had its origin rather in his attentions and diffidence than in his perſon or gallantries; the preſent is indeed the delight of my imagination, the choice of my heart!

"Unfortunately my father and protector, La Somme, who has been brought up and paſſed his life in mercantile concerns, has contracted a ſtrange notion of things.

Notwithſtanding his penetration is keen and his judgment profound on the ſubjects of commerce and happineſs, he feels the greateſt diſlike to military men and their employment. Perhaps ſufficient cauſe may be aſſigned for this antipathy, when it is conſidered, that, in a previous war, his reſidence, being ſituated on the confines of France and Germany, in the Netherlands, has been ever contended for as the barrier of either country, and it has frequently proved that the beſiegers have in a ſhort time become the beſieged. This event particularly happened to him, and harraſſed him from town to town, with the progreſs of the French arms.

" Miſerable inhabitants! (would he often exclaim, as we changed our abode,) guilty of no offence, and employed in toil to counterbalance the effect of increaſing taxes, why are ye perſecuted with wars in which ye are ſure to ſuffer, in which ye are unintereſted, becauſe ambition prompts or conſanguinity flows more directly in this

this line than that. When will ye ſee your true intereſts, and raiſe your arms, not to deſtroy, but to bleſs one another !"

"Theſe reflexions were but the prelude to ſtronger ſentiments, when his wife, in the horrors of a town given up to the plunder of the ſoldiery, fell a ſacrifice to the fright of their terrific entry into her room. Being, however, abſent from theſe ſcenes of domeſtic pain, I have not imbibed his feelings: I have liſtened to his arguments, that I might be the better able to controvert them; nay, and have often baffled him by remarking, that ſoldiers were of all men the ſmarteſt, and that "none but the brave deſerved the fair !"

"Now, my dear Liſette, I am come to the point, and am actually taken captive by the very cauſe I had before eſpouſed. The little urchin Cupid has ſhot his arrow, and wounded poor Ella, before ſhe was capable of reſiſtance, in the following unexpected manner.

"At one of our beſt theatrical exhibitions, chance placed the object of my affections by the ſide of me. The exceſſive heat produced a languor, which threatened me with a fainting fit; his exertions and tenderneſs ſucceeded in moving me into a more airy ſeat, and with the aſſiſtance of the fan I ſoon recovered. His anxious enquiries after my health eaſily introduced a more extented converſation on the various actors and the romantic love-incidents of the play; we converſed with delight on the moſt impaſſioned ſcenes of lovers in our beſt pieces and ballets, and the gallant remarks he made, always in uniſon with my judgement, contributed equally with the repreſentation to the amuſement of the evening. His figure, eyes, and hair, *en militaire*, were ſufficient to intereſt the regards of all the belles, and I felt that envy in his conſpicuous attention which no doubt they ſighed for.

"At certain intervals, the ſoft graſp of his hand, accidentally placed on mine, conveyed

veyed to my heart the moſt inſinuating ſenſations. When the performance cloſed, he inſiſted on eſcorting me home, but the female friend who had attended me maintaining that he ſhould not, he waited till the coach drew up, when he handed me into it, and politely took his leave. Indeed, my dear Liſette, my heart went with him the more becauſe he was not permitted to accompany me, and I felt a thouſand fears encircling the few hopes that cheered me. The military ribband which decorated his hat brought to my recollection the objection La Somme had to that honourable profeſſion.

"I was vexed, yet pleaſed on reflection that I had withheld the knowledge of my reſidence, and ſpared myſelf the increaſe of a difficulty which would have neceſſarily augmented itſelf, if our acquaintance had been renewed. Filled with theſe weighty deductions, I had determined to obliterate from my boſom the impreſſion of the agreeable adventure, and ceaſe to indulge

the hopeleſs wiſh of a nearer intimacy, where the obſtacles would be in competition with the inclination and peace of La Somme, when they all were diſſipated by the preſence of the object which had created them.

" While I was ſtanding at the window of the dining-room, I beheld the ſame gentleman looking with earneſtneſs at our houſe. In a moment we interchanged glances; he croſſed the way, and the ſervant, before I could recover myſelf, announced his entry. Fortunately my father was abſent that morning, and this aſſurance enabled me to calm the ſurpriſe and agitation of my heart. The bluſh roſe on my cheek, and I felt a trepidation difficult to deſcribe when he took me by the hand, and ſaid he hoped I did not conſider his viſit as an intruſion. If he had been of any other profeſſion, or La Somme of a different ſentiment, our ſituation would have preſented an inſipid aſpect, but now I felt an intereſt in out-generaliſing my father,

father, whoſe return might ſurpriſe us. The common topics of converſation were uttered in a loud tone of voice, but the more important ones, the hope of a leſs-reſerved intimacy, the anxieties he ſhould have felt in yielding up without one effort the ſmiles of ſuch a Hebe, and other flattering ſpeeches, were conveyed through the brief accents of a few whiſpers, and penetrated deeper than the loudeſt ſound; —and then his looks, which filled up every vacancy of the tongue,—but I have endeavoured to verſify what their ſilence ſo much better expreſſed. —

When Ella's eyes look ſoft and ſweet,
My boſom feels both joy and pain;
Our eyes we turn whene'er they meet,
Till roving,—loſt,—they meet again.
And when ſhe ſlily looks aſkance,
I ſee her eye with kindneſs eye;
You'd give the world for ſuch a glance,
But which you'll never never know.

When in her eye gay thoughts appear,
Mine ſhare with her's in all their joys ;
And when bedew'd with Pity's tear,
My looks reſponſive aſk the cauſe.

But when her eyes declare too much,
And look deſponding weak and low,
The pain, the torture, then is ſuch
I hope you'll never never know.

Within my eye her image dwells,
And whiſpers ſoftly to my heart
The love each look enchanting tells,
Which Modeſty dares not impart.

For ſuch ſweet eyes, ſuch ſoft diſcourſe,
Believe, I'd all your wealth forego ;
E'en you would feel their magic force,
And pant for bliſs you'll never know.

" I expreſſed my aſtoniſhment at his diſcovery of the houſe, but this information, he told me, prompted by a deſire of reconnoitring the reſidence of ſo much beauty and excellence, he had effected by mounting the coach box, prepared to protect, in caſe of inſult, the jewel contained

contained within. His impatience, he ſaid, had prevented him from waiting till a more convenient opportunity, when he could enjoy the pleaſure of converſation with leſs reſtraint; but the more material and diſagreeable neceſſity he was under of leaving the town in the evening had been the principal motive for the promptitude of his viſit in the morning. "The buſineſs which I am upon (continued the officer) is important, and nothing could have detained me beyond the few hours I allotted for reſt to my horſe, but the unexpected rencontre of yeſterday evening, which has detained my ſenſes, and enliſted them in your ſervice. I am now on the route to Berlin, but the ſolitude of the journey will ceaſe, accompanied by her whom I have emboſomed in my heart, and the muſic of that voice which now floats on my ear. I obſerve (continued he, as he aroſe, and took my hand, apparently to raiſe it to his lips,) that a courier has juſt paſſed; he ſevers me from you. My name

name and family, which muſt excite an after-curioſity in your boſom,———"

"There is my father, La Somme, come home!" exclaimed I. In a moment he ſaluted me, made his ſortie by a ſide ſtair-caſe, and left your Ella miſtreſs of the field. The laſt words he whiſpered were that he would ſee me on his return from Berlin.

"Thus, my dear Liſſa, have I related our firſt interviews; ſeveral others have ſince followed, productive of the moſt ſe-rious ſituations between La Somme and me, and which will furniſh new details for the ear of my confidante:—but, tell me, do you not think that my lover and I eſ-caped from detection very fortunately, and that heaven approves the paſſion it fa-voured?—As a girl of ſpirit I feel you do. But to proceed; I have lately imagined that my father has an object beyond the pleaſure merely of the journey. A young gentleman whom I have not yet ſeen, and in whoſe praiſe he ſpeaks elaborately, is

now

now the connexion to which he wiſhes to attach Ella; but he is too liberal to force my inclination, nor would Ella ſubmit to it.

"My dear girl, (ſaid he,) when I was at Luben, a few years ago, I had the good fortune to meet with a friend of my youthful days, who had come to the inn to enjoy his evening-pipe. The next day he introduced me to his wife and ſon, who by this time muſt be a fine young fellow, and will make an agreeable companion during our ſtay, if it produce nothing farther. I have not ſeen him ſince that time, but, as we ſhall ſoon make a ſtay at Luben, if he continue in the *land of Promiſe*, and he be inclined to enter the *ſtate of marriage*, I ſhall know where to provide him with an invaluable bargain, and to balance my own account in the diſappointments I have late felt."

"I replied, that I underſtood to whom his views extended; that the cauſes which increaſed his comforts would augment Ella's.

Ella's, but ſhe hoped in ſuch a queſtion he would leave her will as free as his own.—He admitted the juſtice of the remark, and confeſſed that, in chooſing for myſelf, he had no objection to any avocation of induſtry or profeſſion, except the military.

"And now, my dear, (continued Ella,) that I have ſo long locked up your powers of ſpeech, give me your opinion and counſel on the beſt plan it will be proper to purſue. To your judgement I can fly for relief; and the loſs of my good father's advice, the only confidant I have hitherto poſſeſſed, will happily be ſupplied by your friendſhip and penetration."

"Why, then, my love, (returned Liſette,) if you were me, you would continue your confidence where you firſt placed it. Believe me, you can poſſeſs no friend who is more intereſted in your happineſs, and will more clearly diſcern your intereſt.—Love ſo much injures the diſcrimination, that the great oculiſts, Time and Reaſon, are incapable, till too late, of removing the

the bandage which the blind god faſtens on the ſight of his votaries. At any rate, my dear, let your guardian have one eye, and your inamorato the other, and I can venture to predict that La Somme will ſhortly have poſſeſſion of both; the ſparkling brilliants will look with more delight on his venerable cheek than on the downy viſage of your Adonis."

"Fie, Liſette! This opinion ſeems to convey a ſuſpicion of the eligibility of my lover: his behaviour was in every reſpect manly and polite; ſurely therefore you would not have me reject him on chimerical concluſions?"

"Dear Ella, I am inclined to be cenſorious.—It was mean to avoid the preſence of La Somme, when he entered."

"That was certainly an act of prudence rather the fault of Ella than him;—he took nothing away him but her heart."

"I am ſorry he took ſo much.—But, again; he gathered every intelligence reſpecting

ſpecting you, and imparted nothing of himſelf."

"What could he have done, Liſette, to pleaſe you?—I have ſaid that he was at the criſis of deſcending to particulars when La Somme's entrance rendered it impoſſible."

"Well, my dear Ella, do not be affected; (for the heart of Ella had mounted to her eyes, and obſtructed in ſome degree the facility of utterance, at the ſevere inveſtigation;) but my ſincerity juſtifies me in believing that he has told twenty other pretty girls the ſame high-finiſhed nonſenſe, and that he is more intereſted in your perſon or money than your affection."

"Ah, Liſette, how eaſy is it to wound! but you have never had a lover offer himſelf, and therefore criticiſe without candour. The time may however arrive when I ſhall have the ſame objections and uneaſineſſes to throw into your boſom."

"There

"There (ſaid Liſette, laughing,) I have anticipated your good-natured intentions; in a leſs ſpace of time almoſt than you have taken to deſcribe your lover, I have received the attack of one, and put him to flight. You ſhall hear all the manœuvres; they will ſerve to cancel the ſerious converation which has juſt paſſed."

Liſette then related the previous details of Mr. Freyherr's viſit.

Although Ella promiſed to relate events which were to be confided only to the ear of Liſette, in the preſent inſtance we muſt give them in the third perſon, for two reaſons; to ſpare the painful remarks Liſette would project at Ella in the uſe of the firſt pronoun, and to give a more accurate detail of events to the preſent moment than Ella might have thought neceſſary.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

FARMER Martin, when in the middle of life, was poſſeſſed of a ſmall but comfortable revenue from the produce of his corn-lands. By induſtry and frugality he was beginning to mount the ladder of proſperity, and, without having made one falſe ſtep himſelf, the ground on which it reſted became unſound, and, gradually ſinking, ſoon left him on a level with our common parent, Earth.

Martin was very early a tenant of La Somme; he had been ſecurity jointly with the latter, in a bond of ſome magnitude, for the accommodation of his friend at Hamburgh,

Hamburgh, who held a place of monied truſt in the ſtate. During the thirty years' war which generally involved the continent, the merchant ſtopped payment, from the failure of remittances, and loſſes by honourable plunderers on the high ſeas.—The bondſmen were compelled to fulfil their agreement, and Martin had the gratifying conſolation of 'rendering unto Cæſar the things that were Cæſar's,' and recommencing his career with more experience and leſs incumbrance of property.

With La Somme it made no ſuch material difference: he felt it, but he alſo balanced the evil by looking at the poor farmer, and thanking God that he could afford it much better than him.

Notwithſtanding the weight of ſuch an unexpected event had preſſed down Martin's philoſophy, hope encouraged him to overcome the evil by reſiſting it. His efforts were now directed to the beſt ſchemes of economy and the utmoſt cultivation of

of his acres. He thanked Providence that he retained his health, the ſociety of a cheerful and valuable wife, and a promiſing eſtate in the comforts and labours of two riſing healthy boys and a daughter. With gratitude he ſurveyed his little domain without and his domeſtic bliſs within; and he reſolved that an eduation, equal, if poſſible, to his better circumſtances, ſhould be given to his children.—Placing frequently the infantine charges beſide him on the plough, he thought his labour appeared lighter; their artleſs queſtions were voluntary offerings from their opening filial affection, and the fond parent conceived the furrows ran ſtraighter when his roſy-faced boys drove the horſes. Looking at them, he would fondly exclaim, "Heaven has its cherubs, and ſo have I! Uninformed as they are, yet their prayer muſt have a common intereſt with the Great Father. He can anticipate what their tongues would utter, if the ſtrength of intellect could direct them; he

he knows that I view them as rough jewels, which it is my duty to preſerve and poliſh for a few years, when, as mine becomes dim, their radiance may illuminate the fading light of my latter hours."

Theſe were moments in which the ſoul overlooked the paſt, and contemplated only the agreeable in the future. Fate had at that time withheld the knowledge that after twelve years more of toil, his property was to become a prey to the depredations of the contending powers, and his domeſtic comfort to be annihilated. His farm laid near a town, formerly the reſidence of La Somme, then ſituated on the ſide of the ſeat of war; the ſudden and eccentric movement however of a large body of the Pruſſian ſoldiery, to attract the attention of the enemy, by a rapid march placed itſelf on the eſtate. The operations of armies pay no regard to the ſufferings of agriculture; the golden proſpect of a plentiful harveſt was deſtroyed by the

ſword; encampments were formed in the neighbourhood, and, when the enemy drew near, ſkirmiſhes and ſurpriſals took place, the horſe-ſoldiery treading down what the foot had ſpared. The Pruſſians were compelled to retire, and Martin and all his family, except his daughter Roſella, were made priſoners of war, and ordered to quit the ſoil which had nouriſhed them. Martin loved his country, and he had fired from the windows of his farm upon the aggreſſors, when it ſhould have been his *duty* to ſuffer, and not to reſiſt.—Before the enemy marched off, they occupied it for the ſame purpoſe, and when the Germans took it, Martin's houſe was levelled, and its owner ſlandered as a traitor.

Tears fell down the cheeks of the family as they loſt ſight of the little territory which their induſtry had adorned with all the emblems of peace, the creeping vine and the fragrant honeyſuckle. With his wife and ſons he mounted the baggage-waggons

waggons which were to convey them nearer to the main army. Fortunately Roſella was diſpoſed of in a place of ſecurity; he felt little uneaſineſs on her account, nor will it be neceſſary here to intereſt the reader in the motives of her abſence from the farm till their proper introduction.

When they had finiſhed their journey, they were brought for inſpection before a plain man, with an aquiline noſe and ſtooping ſhoulders, on horſeback; he was dreſſed in blue, and had nothing remarkable about him but the penetration of his eye. It was the king of Pruſſia, whoſe maxim it was to augment his ſoldiery without reſpect to country or connection: he knew that they muſt fight in the day of battle, and whether theſe aliens fought willingly or not, their bayonet in the ranks was pointed to deſtroy: if they ſhrunk, they were treated as cowards.

The fatigues and ſeverities of military diſcipline as priſoners of war bore no ana-

logy to the plenty and indulgences of a parental houſehold. Martin's wife, delicate in conſtitution, and unuſed to the want of female accommodation, was ill calculated from habit or education to herd with the female canaille who hang like vultures on the rear of an army, and, forgetful of their ſex and ſympathy, when an action has taken place, finiſh by plunder the ſanguinary work of the ſoldiery.—The whole family were preparing to journey another ſtage with their fellow-priſoners, when an order came for their detention. This arrêt occaſioned much ſpeculation on the cauſe of it; but they all agreed that it portended ſome change in their favour; nay, they proceeded to trace out on the dreary page years of comfort yet to come, ſo prone is the mind in its dream to ſtride over precipices and mountains, and enter the promiſed land, rendered more delightful from the difficulties which obtain in its accompliſhment. A few hours explained the myſtery,

myſtery, and replaced them on the craggy rocks they had juſt deſcended.

A corporal announced to them, that his Majeſty, having ſeen and approved of the ſtature of the father and ſons, had, as a mark of his favour, *permitted* them to enter into his regiments, and that his wife would be employed in attendance upon the hoſpital ſick, till the buſineſs of maiming ſhould terminate.

" My country! (exclaimed Martin,) I cannot fight againſt my country!"

" You may tell his Majeſty ſo, if you pleaſe, (replied the meſſenger,) and get hanged for it. Now as to country, the king has re-occupied the part whence you were taken, therefore you have none; and as to ſcruples, why ſhould a man be more ſcrupulous than his maſter, without he gets more by it?"

The longeſt and beſt arguments of Puffendorff would not have altered a tittle of the decree, but it might have acted negatively,

gatively, in exemplifying that delays are attended with danger; the party therefore followed their conductor, to assign and transfer themselves from the plough to the bayonet.

At night they were ordered to their respective quarters, and the wife was removed to the wounded party whom she was early in the morning to accompany. This was the first separation and the last interview of Martin and his wife. The division of sons from a mother long beloved and obeyed was of the most lingering pathetic kind. The parent burst into a flow of tears, which she had vainly endeavoured to repress, while the affectionate husband, with the remnant of his handkerchief, preserved them from falling, and with a half-choaked rough utterance called her a silly weak woman for crying about nothing. Albert, the eldest son, comforted her with prognostics that the war having lasted a long while must soon terminate; and the youngest, pushing the others aside, whispered to her

her to take care of her health, and not to be afraid, for he meant to desert at a fair opportunity, to tell his comrades her wrongs, and, if she was not given up, to fight his way *right through* to her. — A parting and portentous kiss was the signal of eternal separation, and the last sounds that died on the ears of each other were those of God and Protection!

The father and Albert were incorporated into one regiment, and Adolphus into a corps of horse. It was some consolation that they were situated near each other.— After a short service, the king, walking among his troops, recognised our soldiers, and he asked Martin of what country he was?

"A German," replied the farmer.

"Have you been long in our service?"

"It is one month since I was pillaged, and made a prisoner."

"You mean by that that you were taken without having committed any act of hostility?"

"No: I mean that I did not ſuffer ruin without reſiſtance."

"You were reſident on the enemy's ſoil, and you know that he who is not for us is againſt us; but now, ſoldier, you are on the victorious ſide, and a conqueror."

"True, ſir; and I am ſorry for it."

"Well, ſoldier, you have a tongue adapted either to command or explain.—You ſhall be promoted."

In a ſhort time the event of a death in the regiment proved that the king had not forgotten his promiſe; indeed, in the engagements of this great warrior, the life-annuity of an officer was worth little more than a few hours' purchaſe. Martin was raiſed to the rank of ſerjeant, and had the command of his ſon in a ſmall reconnoitring party.

The enemy being now in full march to recover the territory from which they had been driven, much depended on a complete knowledge of their progreſs, and to this

this effect the party which Martin commanded was ordered to watch their motions.

Martin ſet forward with the reſolution to obſerve as much as poſſible, and do as little miſchief, without raiſing ſuſpicion. Of the various modes of death to which the military life is ſubject, there is no one that affords ſo ſmall a degree of ſatisfaction as the being ſhot out of exiſtence in an inſignificant ſkirmiſh, of which the world ſeldom hears, and no one inquires. It no way influences the grand operations, and does not leave to the vanity of the poor victim's kindred the conſolation of ſetting forth in what great battle he fell, or by what brave general commanded.—To fall in the hour of inſignificance is in idea only a deep wound to the ambitious boſom. When a few men meet each other on the green carpet which bountiful Nature has ſpread for the uſe of *all*, and contend from cuſtom, not from reaſon, it has

the appearance of murder. If they fall, no military trophies honour their exit, no chaplain of the religion of Peace comes to ſay, "Bleſſed are the dead!" over them. They are conſigned like manure to the ſoil, and their names are heard only in their ſorrowing families.

Martin, at the head of his men, was aſcending to the ſummit of a riſing ground, the better to command a view of the roads and interſections of country beneath, when they were arreſted in their progreſs by a ditch and a thick hedge, dividing it from the adjoining incloſure. While engaged in ſeeking the eaſieſt place to paſs, they were aſſailed by a fire of muſketry. The fire was returned at random, and the Pruſſians ran immediately to poſſeſs themſelves of a breach in the bank, from which the hedge had been torn away to make a paſſage.

At the moment of reaching it, one of the Germans ruſhed into the vacancy, followed

followed by his countrymen. Martin drew his piſtol, fired, and impulſively caught the wounded ſoldier in his arms. Recognition and horror ſucceeded in the next moment, and the feeble poignant accents of "Father, father! you have ſhot me!" conveyed a ſhock to Martin's boſom more acute perhaps than the fatal ball he had lodged in his ſon's.

Inattentive to the buſineſs around him, Martin knelt in the agony of contrition, and alternately deprecated the practice of war and himſelf. He called to Albert, but he was buſily engaged in making a ſhew of reſiſtance to the enemy, whoſe number, being ſuperior to their adverſaries', had killed ſeveral on the firſt fire, and, after a ſhort ſtruggle, diſperſed or taken priſoners all the reſt. They then returned to look after their miſſing comrade, and ſecure the officer who had commanded the Pruſſians.

Deſtructive as were the weapons of war, they had not yet totally effaced the word

humanity from their foreheads. They ſtood in ſilence at a circular diſtance, as they beheld Albert ruſh forward, and recognize in the wounded youth his only brother! He graſped his hand, and eagerly aſked what cruel arm had done it?

"None but the arm of Fate! (replied Adolphus.) My father deſerves no imputation for the innocent misfortune. Thank heaven, had a moment more elapſed, I might have been guilty of parricide!—at preſent all may yet be well! In the midſt of ſorrow, we muſt not forget our ſafety; therefore, my father, and you, Albert, will do well to ſuppoſe the wound is not fatal, and much better in removing me to where I can get ſomething to ſtop the blood."

"Eternal curſes on the war! (exclaimed Martin;) I wiſh that——"

"That I may recover! (added Adolphus.) Raſh vows never aſcend ſo high as the heavenly powers.—Beſides, you perceive I am ſomewhat enabled to repay yo

in acts of hoſtility, for, if I am your patient, you are our priſoners."

In a ſhort time they all arrived at the German quarters, and heard from the camp-ſurgeon that the ball could be extracted without much danger, and that the degree of fever was moderate. The pleaſing intelligence leſſened the pain of ſeparation and thoſe inconveniencies which as priſoners of war they were in common with the reſt ordered to.

The mind of Martin, boding on their altered ſituation and better times, when they had retired to their bed of ſtraw, waked Albert to aſk him how he could ſo ſoon fall aſleep; and next to whiſper his ideas; the pregnancy of which, being at their full time, could not wait for delivery till they were alone.

"Happy (ſaid he) in the termination of ſuch an event, and relieved from the neceſſity of fighting againſt our country, we may yet be able to repoſſeſs our lands,

and, ſhould the war ſoon cloſe, recover our domeſtic felicity; then, my dear boy, as my arm becomes unnerved, your's will be ſtrengthened, and we ſhall lack nothing!"

"Nothing, father,—but my mother and the wounded Adolphus!"

"My wife and my ſon!—alas! I had forgotten them in the picture. Albert, we cannot be happy without them; their comforts always centered in our happineſs; and when ſhe finds that we have no more returned to the Pruſſian camp, and little thinking of the fortunate termination of our rencontre, ſhe will pine, and go ſupperleſs to ſleep on her hard bed, and be reſtleſs with concern for our fate."

"True, father; but Providence is preſent in both camps; and, between ourſelves, we are imprudently tempting its goodneſs by our converſation. You ſeem to have overlooked that we were taken with arms in our hands, and, if the circumſtance ſhould be reported to the general,

neral, there may be ſome danger of a court-martial and—death !"

"Softly, Albert ! no more on that head ; —the danger is extreme."

This, it muſt be confeſſed, was a neceſſary caution, but it unfortunately was made too late. Univerſal ſilence at midnight Martin had conceived implied univerſal ſleep, but he had yet to learn that it may reſound through the naſal organs, and the ear be at the ſame moment awake: thus it happened, that what was whiſpered without reſerve was not unattended by one of thoſe who court favour by plunging others into diſtreſs. A ſoldier, wounded in an attempt to deſert, and then under cure, was the cruel informant. How rigidly do men perſecute the ſame vice in others which they commit themſelves ! The deſerter related the converſation to a ſerjeant, and it aſcended thro' the ſeveral grades to the commandant, who ordered the two priſoners to be put into

into cloſer confinement, and their perſons to be ſearched.

Unfortunate inveſtigation! it produced from the pocket of Martin his appointment in the enemy's ſervice, and from thoſe of Albert ſufficient letters to implicate him. A court-martial was ſhortly after held, and the oral and written teſtimony advanced fully eſtabliſhed their traitorous crime. Young Martin, who had not yet recovered of his wound, plunged into the acuteneſs of reflection in being the innocent cauſe of repaying the accident he had received ſo dreadfully on his father and brother, ſaw the impoſſibility of applying for a ſuſpenſion of the trial with any effect. His appearance would have implicated himſelf in concealing their guilt, and it might have appeared that he had actually been in the enemy's ſervice; his wounded and emaciated ſtate would have rather increaſed than allayed the reſentment of the Court, and the conſanguinity

guinity of the ſon and his father have been effectually proved. He knew that the ties of kindred are diſſolved in the rigour of military articles of war.

In vain the unprotected priſoners urged the known compulſions to which men of ſtature were ſubject in the Pruſſian army, and inſiſted that the motive of their conduct in joining the enemy was the more eaſily to deſert, an intention that could not have been carried into execution, if they had as priſoners of war been marched into the interior. The defence was deemed inſufficient; it came from poor fellows, and whoſe ſuit is ſo weak as Poverty's?

They were remanded to confinement in a priſon ſomewhat more diſtant, and put in irons. Here they were to await the determination of the day fixed for their ſentence, which depended upon the trials of ſome other deſerters, who, if found guilty, were to ſuffer at the ſame time.

When they had been a ſhort time in the darkſome hole, (formerly an out-houſe,) they

they ſeated themſelves on the floor with their only attendant, Melancholy, while reflection roſe on reflection, and the fatigued mind began to ſurvey the loſs of life with as much indifference as the preſervation of it.

"Look! (ſaid the wretched father, as he mounted his foot on a hole picked by ſome unfortunate in the wall;) look, Albert; through the grating in the wall I can ſee the ſcite where once our farm-houſe flouriſhed: it ſeems now a heap of ruins. The old elms that led to it, and the mazy hedges which we have trimmed with ſo much neatneſs, have diſappeared, —have been levelled, as we ſhortly ſhall, with the duſt. To the other ſide when I turn my eye, I ſee our fences broken down, our drains (what labour have they not coſt us!) choked up, and our promiſing wheat-fields reploughed by the feet of horſes and cannon. Ah, wretched harveſt of death! and we are doomed to ſuffer on the ſoil we have tilled!"

"Let

"Let us ſubmit like men, (ſaid Albert.) We ſhall only be conſigned to the boſom of our Great Father a little before the natural order of things. Perſecuted here by the unfathomable will of the Supreme, but one ſhock more, and we ſhall triumph in our turn. The power of misfortune will then be paſt, and the reign of tranquillity compenſate by its duration for the ſorrows we have experienced."

It were needleſs to enumerate the ſerious converſation which at intervals took place: it was appropriate to their dreadful ſituation.

The day at length arrived in which the execution of the ſentence was awarded. The military were ſummoned to be preſent at the execution, and were drawn up in a field facing the ruinated farm-houſe, on which the father and his family had once caſt an eye ſwelling with delight; but their viſion, no longer united to the objects of former cares, took in the moſt wonderful

wonderful and extenſive proſpect in nature,—it mounted to heaven, and viewed the ſerene æthereal region where Juſtice and Mercy reſide,—thoſe attributes which ſo often are errant to the intellectual eye of man.

After the neceſſary forms had been paſſed through, and the bandages had been tied on the ſight of the kneeling victims,—when the dreadful ſignal only remained to ſever time and eternity,—what counterſign can now avert the murdering ſhot?—where, aſks the mind, is the wounded Adolphus? what inhumanity arreſts his love and tenderneſs from being preſent at the awful ſeparation? Another minute elapſed in this portentous ſtate, and the laſt accents that moved the lips of the unfortunates were for a wife, a parent, and a brother! The handkerchief fell from Martin's hand, the fuſileers heard the word of command,— make ready,—preſent,—and—the fatal word was ſuſpended by the ruſhing

ruſhing forward of the brave, abſent, long-loſt, Adolphus, whoſe exertions gave utterance to a part only of the endearing names of Father! Brother! before he fell, overcome with joy and fatigue between the relatives, whoſe ſouls were ſoaring above every terreſtrial conſideration.

The economy of death was inſtantly deranged. The priſoners tore off the bandage from their eyes, that they might have a laſt farewell look at the inanimate Adolphus. The officers ran to the ſpot, to aſcertain the cauſe of this intruſion, when one of them diſcerned a folded paper, unwafered, lying near the hand of young Martin, directed to the officer ſuperintending the execution. When the latter had opened it, he announced to the proſtrate unfortunates that it contained a ſuſpenſion of their ſentence, and that they might retire under the care of the guard till farther orders.

The

The military trio now embraced each other, the word "reſpite" flew from rank to rank, and every countenance beamed a ſmile of ſatisfaction. Let us too, where we can, pay a tribute to thoſe honeſt feelings which the practice of war too generally obliterates from the human boſom. The ſoldiers threw up their hats, and exulted more in the ſalvation of two harmleſs unoffending men than a victory which might have murdered as many thouſands. Nature felt overpowered by the confuſion of events, and relieved her children by opening the ſprings of joy and grief, and letting a profuſion of big drops roll down their cheeks; nay, the ſoldiery near to the ſcene caught the ſympathy, and brought the ſleeve of their coat in contact with their eyes.

A ſhort time ſoon reſtored the vital powers of Adolphus to their functions, and the party, though the movement was a mixture of the gay and melancholy,

retired

retired to aſcertain the cauſes which had produced a change thus unexpected, and from which, in a reſpite of this kind, no danger exiſts of a final fulfilment of the ſentence.

Having anticipated the laſt event previous to its explanation, it will be neceſſary to ſay a few words on the ſubject.

Adolphus, a few days before the capture of his father, had ſtrayed unthinkingly beyond the outpoſts; it then occurred to him that the night would be favourable to his deſertion, and that it might be as dangerous to return as to proceed. Having paſſed the Pruſſian picquets at ſome diſtance, and being but ſome miles from his own centinels, he reſolved to embrace the opportunity, and puſh for their deſtination. Here he ſurrendered himſelf as a German who had been a priſoner of war: on being conducted before the officer of guard, and interrogated, he prudently ſtated the ſimilar ſituations of his father and brother,

brother, concealing their having taken an active part in the enemy's ſervice. A hope of meeting with thoſe he eſteemed, determined him to enter immediately, independent of which, the deſire of revenge and the inclination he felt for a military life would have fixed him in the army.—Martin and his ſon could not be aware that Adolphus had deſerted, as they were accuſtomed to be ſeveral days without ſeeing each other. Adolphus called the rencontre chance, becauſe he had laid down in his own mind a meeting under different circumſtances; religion however will ſubſtitute Providence for that term, when the cauſe is ſtated which produced a remiſſion of the ſentence.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

THE Count Ludwig, a nobleman of power and eminence at the court of Vienna, had a little time before ſet off on private buſineſs to the confines of the the ſeat of war, meaning to extend his journey no farther than was ſafe and convenient. He invited his daughter-in-law, Lady Graaf, to accompany him, leſs for the amuſement of the ſcene than the pleaſure of ſeeing her affectionate huſband, the Count's ſon, who was then ſerving in the army of his country in the official capacity of a captain of horſe.

The ground on which the propoſition was placed took away from the lady the plauſibility

plauſibility of denial. The marriage had been entered into rather at the impoſing requeſt of the fathers than herſelf; and, though it had taken place many years, accompanied with every attention that an earneſt deſire to pleaſe can evince, it had not obliterated the preference which ſhe had conceived at an earlier period for one who had fallen a ſacrifice to a perſecution of ſtate, fabricated againſt him on her account. Though leſs fortunate, rich, and noble, than his rival, he was not leſs a man; and, though their behaviour and conjugal duties might have been equally at par, there was a large minus account to fill up between choice and compulſion.

During the ſtay of the parties in the vicinity of the camp, Martin and his ſon had been made priſoners; and, when the trial was concluded, the particulars of it furniſhed matter of converſation at the table of the Count. The reſpectability of the priſoners in their former eſtate excited

cited the pity of Lady Graaf, the ſimple defence they made was impreſſive, and the ſentence awarded was too rigorous; nevertheleſs no ſufficient plea preſented itſelf on which ſhe could exert her influence to obtain a delay of the judgement.

In the progreſs of her promenades round the military tenements, ſhe obſerved a ſhattered tottering building, the expreſſive picture of the miſerable inhabitants within: it was the invalid hoſpital. She entered, and the difference between the gaiety of the well-fed, elegantly clothed, and licentious, officers without, the ſociety to which ſhe had been accuſtomed, bore no analogy to this cavern of contorſions and death: it ſeemed the difference of order and chaos. She felt a pain at every ſtep, and, during the pitying queſtions which ſhe put to ſeveral objects, ſhe advanced towards a young man who had recently had a ball extracted from his ſhoulder.

"You are very young, (ſaid the Lady;) what is your name?"

"Adolphus Martin, madam," replied the ſoldier.

"The men who were tried the other day bore the ſame name; are you related to them?"

"Yes, madam; the relationſhip of father and brother."

"By whom did you receive that wound?"

"I was ſhot by—my father!"

"What! intentionally?"

"No, good lady;—it was done by ſurpriſe only. I would receive another ſhot here, (pointing to his heart,) to ſave his life; but, curſed misfortune! we had no proof to bring but his own teſtimony that my brother and he were compelled to enter into the enemy's ſervice, and had, as I afterwards did, the intention to deſert."

"How many have you in family?"

"Five; a mother and ſiſter, beſides us three: my mother was carried away when we were, and is an attendant in the Pruſſian hoſpital;

hoſpital ; ſhe will die with grief when ſhe learns that we have left the army and her behind."

" A mother, and ſhe will die with grief! a ſon that would be again ſhot to ſave his father's life, and a father and ſon of whom report ſays they were once near this ſpot happy and reſpectable ! Perhaps I ſhall paſs through the hoſpital again ;—a good ſon claims more than pity,—he merits the beſt attentions and advice. If you continue to mend, and I ſhould ſend, there will be no danger in coming to me when the ſtate of your arm is leſs irritable."

She then proceeded in the ſame benevolent manner through the groupe of deformities, (how unlike the work of the Great Being !) and meditated on the contraſt which the indulgences of affluence exhibit when compared to the horſe-ſurgery and ſtraw-bedding allotted to theſe heroes of inſignificance.

Adolphus immediately conceived a hope from the expreſſion which gliſtened in her

cye at the ſound of his mother's ſeparation, that it was indicative of ſome exertion in his father's favour; but the hope died within him when the morning of the execution came, and all was ſilent. The Lady, on the day following her leaving Adolphus, ſent for him, and promiſed to uſe her influence for the liberation of the unfortunates, but made it a condition that he ſhould not communicate the intelligence when the event of her ſucceſs might be doubtful.

Lady Graaf ſeldom made a requeſt to her huſband, whoſe higheſt gratification would have laid in the execution of it; in this inſtance however ſhe related to him what ſhe had ſeen, and requeſted that a ſuſpenſion of the ſentence might take place.—He flew to the commander, but he objected to commiſeration and pardon as a dangerous precedent. All that was obtained was the delay of three days. Count Ludwig, during this interval, determined

to

to dispatch a messenger with a short statement of the case to the war minister at home. The delay of three days was the salvation of our prisoners. It gave time for the return of a favourable answer, at the critical hour before mentioned, and while the expectant was waiting without the tent. Lady Graaf immediately wrote a note, delivered it to Adolphus, and gave him wings in bidding him fly to save them. He set off without returning his gratitude, and effected his mission in the manner previously related.

After the emotions of affection had subsided, the three supplicants were allowed to pay their first visit to the residence of their *guardian angel*, to bless her for her *act of grace*. She dismissed them with a condescending wish, and a piece of information which placed their reprieve in a new and unsuspected light. "Go, (said she to Martin;) may you never be unhappy again! You are less indebted to me

than you imagine;—pity for a *wife* and *mother*, *loſt to her offspring*, has ſaved you!"

A ſhort time added other exculpative circumſtances to the caſe of the Martins, and the reprieve was changed into a free pardon.

One afflicting event more, however, added its bitter gall to the ſweet of returning liberty. Previous to leaving the army, they learned from a ſoldier who had been in the enemy's hoſpital, and exchanged, that Mrs. Martin fell a victim to the infectious diſorder of one of the patients. She caught a putrid fever, and the attendant and the attended were, before he left the ſcene, buried in the ſame grave. The time previous to her death was alternately lucid and deranged. Her fears were for the ſafety of her daughter, and her ſettlement in life. On this head, ſhe charged the liſtening few aſſembled round to repeat her bleſſing and requeſt to Martin, that he would watch over Roſella, and, if he

he ſhould repoſſeſs his farm, take her home, and unite her, if ſhe were diſpoſed to marry, to an induſtrious man like himſelf; adding, by way of explanation, that her wiſhes and happineſs having never mounted higher, her daughter ſhould be confined to the ſame level, under the fear of her dying diſpleaſure. Her boys ſhe commended to the Great Power ſhe was haſtening to; thus, having diſpoſed of all the property ſhe poſſeſſed in this world, and which no one claimed to the prejudice of another, namely, her *good will*, ſhe retired from the ſanguinary ſcene to the manſions of eternal peace.

The Counteſs and her father-in-law after this returned to the capital, and it may be ſafely pronounced, that, if their journey proved without any other intereſting or amuſing circumſtance than the one laſt related, they had met with an inviſible companion in that tranſaction who would never forſake them in their progreſs thro' life.

Adolphus, whoſe ſituation ſuffered no change from the liberation of his father and brother, remained in the hoſpital till his arm permitted him to re-enter his regiment. While therefore his more bold and careleſs diſpoſition placed the latter in *conſtant* employment, Martin and Albert determined to revert to the more peaceable avocation of former years. The reſolution to enter either into a farm or commercial ſituations was eaſily made, but the means by which they were to effect it was a more difficult attainment. Though they poſſeſſed not the *primum mobile*, that grand mover, which is called, among a thouſand other names, the *root of all evil*, from which ſo much *good* ſprings, *anglice*, *money*, they were virtually confident that they deſerved ſomething which acts frequently as well,—and this was *credit*.

The impulſe of this recollection determinated them to make an eccentric movement to Stettin, then the reſidence of La Somme,

Somme, their former landlord, who had himſelf felt the comforts of war in the loſs of his wife and much property.

The character of this fortunate, good, and plain merchant was at times penurious and generous. He ſeldom neglected an opportunity by which any thing could be gained, and, though he never gave more than the loweſt value for what he received, his engagements were executed with the utmoſt punctuality. To the diligent and induſtrious he was liberal,—not in the voluntary gifts of dainties for their tables, or refined ornaments for the tea-ſervice, but in the willing accommodation of money at the legal intereſt of five per cent. per annum. By this he enabled many to riſe, and, if he met with a loſs in this ſyſtem of loaning, which not unfrequently happened, it agitated him much leſs than the taking of a counterfeit ſhilling, or an undercharge of a few pence in calculating the intereſt. He had a very happy diſpoſition to balance good and ill fortune, and always found that

the profit was equal to the loſs, if *time were thrown into the account*. In this manner he would arrange a chain of events according to their tendency, on the debtor and creditor ſides of his mind, and produce a reſult finally in his favour. He was as plain in his diet as in his religious opinions: high-ſeaſoned diſhes and doctrines, he conceived, irritated the mind and produced fevers in both ſyſtems; nevertheleſs, he deteſted perſecution as much for one cauſe as the other. To Ella he was liberal, and ſhe ſtood the promiſed inheritant of his property, if ſhe continued ſingle, or married with his conſent.

After a long march, accompanied with hunger and fatigue, Martin and Albert paſſed ſafely into that part of Pruſſia near to which Stettin is ſituated, having diſguiſed their names, and aſſumed the character of diſbanded ſoldiers. They proceeded to the houſe of La Somme, and without waiting for the neceſſary adjuſtments and

and poliſhing of the bruſh and raſor, knocked at the door, and entered his abode in the threadbare garb of their military misfortunes.

La Somme ran forward with ſome diſpleaſure as a glimpſe of the ſoldiers caught his eye, when Martin addreſſed him by his name, and extended the hand of indigence towards him. La Somme withdrew his, and gave an inquiſitive ſtare, which made it neceſſary that the farmer ſhould continue his introduction. "Maſter La Somme, (ſaid he,) I hope your friendſhip will not forget me, though fortune has.—You eſteemed Martin and his boys when they uſed to appear in a coat of homeſpun; — then it was that they looked with pleaſure on themſelves.—Neceſſity has made me put on this colour,— but I am not changed within. I have been ruined by the ſoldiery, carried away by force, and turned into a ſoldier myſelf. I have had ſufferings enough, but do not let Martin feel another wound in your indifference!"

 "Poor

"Poor Martin! (cried La Somme.)—Give me your hands, and let us be thankful that I can graſp them.—Indifference to you, Martin! no!—but it is you that are ſo much altered, and not La Somme.—Be aſſured, though his eſtate muſt have been ruined with you, that he ſuffers doubly in your loſs. Come, let us lighten your misfortunes by hearing the detail of them. Our accounts in ſpite of all this may come right at laſt, for Providence can raiſe the meaneſt or humble the mighticſt; ſo let us go in."

The farmer and his ſon retired with La Somme, and their misfortunes furniſhed converſation throughout the afternoon; when they roſe at night to depart, La Somme inſiſted that the conferences ſhould not be broken up, but made a motion, which the charming Ella ſeconded, that Martin ſhould ſtay till an opportunity offered of reſuming his purſuit of agriculture.

"What

"What ſay you, Ella? (ſaid La Somme, when they were alone,) I have a mind to make a purchaſe of a ſmall farm at Schaffen, near Frankfort, the ſportive place of earlier days, which I can have a good bargain; now, if that were the caſe, do not you think Martin would be an acquiſition to it?"

Ella nodded her head, and looked pleaſed, to ſhew that her heart had no objection to do good.

"Now I mean (continued La Somme) that old Martin ſhall occupy the farm at an eaſy rent, and give a bond with intereſt upon all that he may raiſe, moveable and immoveable, by way of ſecurity for the money which he will want; this, my dear Ella, will make the ſecurity equal to the riſk, and be a ſtimulus to our tenant."

"That will do, (replied Ella;) I find myſelf intereſted in his misfortunes and well-doing; if, therefore, in your commercial

mercial language, we can level the path by which he deſcends to his inheritance in the other world, that will be a balance in our favour in the great account-books above."

"Next, Ella, there remains the ſon to provide for. I think he ſeems from his manner and education calculated for an eaſier employment than the plough."

"I think ſo too, if one may judge from the deference he paid to me; indeed, I think he would not diſcredit any ſituation you might procure for him."

"To prevent any hazard of that kind, ſuppoſe we look out for him at home; I want a perſon to attend my buſineſs in town, and act as clerk; it would leſſen my anxiety and fatigue."

"And increaſe our comfort, if he ſhould prove an agreeable young man."

"The ſerious diſpoſition he exhibits ſeems to poſſeſs none of that thoughtleſs levity which is ſo muſical to the ear of many

ny young girls: perhaps the ſcenes he has lately witneſſed have placed the gravity of forty on the brow of much younger years; but this may give way to Ella's gaiety; and then as to perſon,—but what is a bird, you know, without its feathers?"

The reſolutions of La Somme were conveyed to the Martins at a proper opportunity, and the roſy cup of friendſhip now flowed as liberally as the cup of affliction had recently been overcharged. Such *proviſion* was more than they were prepared to *digeſt*; their hearts were full, and heaven heard more gratitude articulated from their boſoms than La Somme and Ella did from their lips.

Some time was conſumed in giving inſtructions and making preparations for the new concern; the neceſſary ſecurities were ſoon adjuſted, and a clauſe inſerted, at Albert's requeſt, that the bond ſhould be cancelled as faſt as his ſalary could effect it. The father then ſeparated from his

ſon,

ſon, La Somme, and Ella, once more to try the fickle favours of fortune, and turn his regards towards his daughter Roſella.

The terms of Albert's employment were fixed at an increaſing ſum, dependent upon La Somme's approbation. His chief object therefore was to anticipate his firſt half year's income, and to furniſh himſelf with the *ornaments* of human nature;—we do not mean the virtues, truth, goodneſs, and the like; but a better wardrobe, and a better appearance,—things which are frequently more conducive to fortune than the former.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

HAVING conducted the good Martin ſafely to the poſſeſſion of his farm, after a period of a few months, he turned his attention towards the execution of that part of his wife's will reſpecting Roſella, to whom he wrote a long account of the changes in the family, with his own ſituation and that of Albert. Her anſwer was affectionate, and marked with duty; but ſhe urged ſo many advantageous reaſons for not quitting the family in which her mother

ther had placed her, that Martin praiſed her prudence, and reſolved to poſtpone, to a more proper time, that very act of recall which Roſella wiſhed to prevent. She affectionately loved her brother Albert, becauſe he adminiſtered the leſſons of brotherly counſel without oppoſing her inclination; he was the repoſitory of her ſecrets, and his good opinion was her deſire. Her father had been hoſtile to her leaving home previous to his recent loſſes, and Roſella never ſought to look for her comforts through his eye afterwards.

We may now ſkip over a period of two years of induſtry and tranquillity, and take a view of Albert and Ella when the latter, leaving the immurities of the boarding-ſchool and its quixotic conceptions of mankind, approached to womanhood, and aſſumed the reins of domeſtic government.

Albert, after his adoption into La Somme's houſe, and during the intervals of her viſits at home, did not behold with indifference

indifference the opening bud of Ella's beauty; but thoſe feelings always leſſened as her abſence increaſed, till Ella's ſuperintendancy placed him conſtantly in the ſphere of her attraction.

Albert's modeſty and diffidence were the leading features of his character; they were at no time aſſumed that they might occaſionally blaze ſtronger and with more effect. His education was more indebted to his ſtudious exertions than to ten years of plain ſcholaſtic erudition. His manner was impreſſive from the placidity and eaſe with which he conducted the intercourſe between himſelf and men of buſineſs. His merit was leſs diſcernable than either, becauſe a confidential connexion alone induced him to unfold the intellectual arithmetic of his obſervations. In tranſactions of difficulty with mankind, he was unembarraſſed, but Ella's eyes, voice, and vivacity, ſeemed to abſorb his, and to lock up thoſe powers, when ſhe addreſſed him.

him, which he wiſhed to exert. The organs of affection, indeed, are formed more upon the model of nature than art: the ſoft paſſion is painted in its proper colouring by diffidence, attentions, and bluſhes, and caricatured by tears, ſmiles, and levity. The heart of the coquette is unworthy of Cupid's conqueſt, and he has found the beſt method to bring this inſect under the dominion of his relation, Hymen, is to gild the feather of his dart.

The inferiority of Albert's ſituation precluded a probability that he ſhould at any future period be enabled to addreſs La Somme on his daughter's account; he therefore reſtrained his tongue, without conſidering that his looks were a volume in which the arch Ella read the feelings of his heart.

After a ſhort time ſhe was convinced that a preſentiment had taken place, which it was prudent not to encourage, and more painful to relinquiſh. Whether her father would

would cenſure or approve her inclination ſhe did not mean to make an object of enquiry, but, although he was a young man whoſe conduct had merited eſteem, there were doubtleſs others more eligible in the eye of La Somme, whom he might one day propoſe; nevertheleſs, as this reſted on conjecture, ſhe determined to indulge in a more unreſtrained and encouraging converſation with Albert, whoſe dreſs and appearance had no indication of the vacuity of his purſe. This reſolution ſoon manifeſted itſelf in occaſional evening promenades, in joining her at the laſt half-hour of a friendly engagement, and in taking his opinion of her muſical purchaſes. Ella played well, ſung with taſte, and ſome times rhimed a little; when this happened, Albert felt the force of her expreſſion, and could not but apply the following airette to himſelf.

If muſic be the food above,
How ſhall a minſtrel's ſtrain
Expreſs the ſweet repaſt of love,
And be belov'd again!

Some ſeraph ſhould her feelings ſing;
Some Orpheus lend his art,
To touch the tender trembling ſtring
That vibrates to the heart.

In a few months the diſcriminating world ſaid they were born for each other, except La Somme, Albert, and Ella, who had but a faint viſion of ſuch a remote object.

Ella ſaw with pleaſure the attentions of Albert, and felt herſelf warmed with an equal attachment, becauſe ſhe had raiſed the flame in his boſom. Her diſpoſition reſembled coquetry, and was eſſentially different. To love Albert without the ſuſpicion of La Somme was her forte: it gave a zeſt to her interviews; it was acting upon her own firm: directly he interfered the charm was broken: in every reſpect good, gentle, and virtuouſly diſpoſed, ſhe only

only failed in wiſhing to conduct her amours out of the common way. There muſt be a ſecrecy, a myſtery, which ſhe could only decypher, to make them exquiſitely pleaſant.

Albert was not calculated to make an equal figure in the fields of Mars and Venus. In the latter, he reſolved, heſitated, and determined, that, before he declared himſelf, he would break the affair to La Somme, and abide by his deciſion; again the fear of his diſpleaſure drove off the day of confeſſion. Ella's figure was well-proportioned, light, and faſcinating, and Albert's was firm and active; there was nothing Platonic on either ſide; but the young man certainly reaſoned the beſt, when he propoſed from the leſs-reſerved manner of Ella to become more circumſpect. She ſoon perceived the change, and, fearful of loſing her influence, and ſinking in her own eſteem, increaſed her ſmiles and favours. Albert's prudence

ſubmitted

ſubmitted to new allurements, and in ſome impaſſioned moments, his tongue had nearly broken through the long-preſerved boundary, and declared that he loved her.

At the commencement of ſpring, like the period in England called Valentine's day, it is uſual for the youth of each ſex to indulge in anonymous verſes, in praiſe of their favourite laſſes, and frequently to accompany them with more valuable proofs of eſteem, in the ſhape of trinkets, ornaments of fancy, and other trifles of *high poliſh*, which reflect only the faireſt faces in creation! Different from the general deſcription of anonymous correſpondents, theſe give pleaſure, and need no detecting aid from the police.

One of theſe intereſting viſitants made its appearance at this time to Ella, and contained a handſome and elegant locket, ornamented with a mythological device, and the motto, "*Fidelitas.*" The verſes correſponded to the trinket, and were very gallant,

Its execution and appearance beſpoke it the production of ſome perſon of taſte, and, no doubt, if not an Adonis, at leaſt very tolerable. Two roſe-buds, pending from one ſtem, formed the deſign, and the following lines accompanied it:

Like two kind hearts each op'ning roſe-bud grows;
One ſtem produces, and one colour glows:
United thus, and thus beheld apart,
They're emblematic of each lover's heart,
Whoſe thoughts, whoſe wiſhes, to one centre move,—
The plant of inſtinct, budded into love.

The other part of the letter was complimentary, concluding with a hope that the correſpondent, tho' in the ſhade, would occupy the ſame ſituation within her boſom as the ornamental offering would without.—Ella's mind traverſed the whole city to find out the conveyancer, but determined nothing ſatisfactorily. The intention was evident, the preference was marked, and the anxiety of fathoming this almoſt-fathomleſs ſecrecy was a feather that floated upon her curioſity.

Ella eaſily perſuaded herſelf that ſhe muſt poſſeſs a conſiderable ſhare of charms to attract the attention of ſuch an epiſtolary incognito, and her little heart was more grateful to Nature for the miſchievous ſuperiority than it deſerved.

The following morning the ſum total of her calculations had produced no anſwer that could be eſtabliſhed by proof. But how quick did her dullneſs ſeem to diſſipate itſelf, when Albert entered the parlour to aſk a queſtion. For ten minutes ſhe had no doubt of her diſcernment, and then ſhe began to croſs examine herſelf: Albert might have ſent it, but he was no author beyond a little *ſterling* proſe, nor was his genius ſo romantically inclined; it was too expenſive for his finances to ſupply, or his prudence to permit; but ſuch ſtrange things did happen, and La Somme was ſo liberal to him, that it yet might have been with the compaſs of his plain commercial gallantry to have ſent.

Ella

Ella determined next to conſult the account books, and ſee if the writing bore a ſimilarity to that of Albert, but no analogy exiſted: ſhe then determined to ſhew it to him, under the idea of expounding the deſign, and to judge by obſervation if he was the inamorato.

"Albert, (ſaid ſhe, the next morning) I have had one of the moſt flattering preſents ſent me yeſterday, by an unknown hand. I cannot divine who has ſent it."

"Let us endeavour to diſcover him, (ſaid Albert) he cannot be more worthy than the receiver."

"Indeed it was an idle gallantry to convey ſuch a preſent while the author of it remains concealed."

"I differ from you; you have repaid the giver by ſtamping the gift with your approbation."

"I do not rightly comprehend the deſign; can you explain it?"

" That belongs properly to the conveyancer: he could, I think, moſt properly explain it."

" I ſhould be happy if he would: he ſeems to have ſent me an enigma to expound, and has not ſtated when he will call for the anſwer:" While ſhe ſaid this, ſhe drew the preſent from her pocket, which was encircled in the folds of her fine white handkerchief.

" I am pretty certain (continued Albert) that he means himſelf to open the book of Revelations."

" Why it is then evident you muſt have a knowledge of the perſon, by anſwering perſonally for him; and in that caſe you can fortunately relieve me from ſuſpenſe, by declaring his name."

" That is wholly impoſſible."

And at this moment Ella preſented the locket to him. The ſurpriſe it occaſioned was viſible on the countenance of Albert, and Ella remarked to him that he would not have viewed it with ſuch expreſſion, but from an adequate cauſe.

" True,

" True, (replied Albert;) I am ſurpriſed to think that an anonymous perſon ſhould part with ſuch a trinket; I indeed know a friend of La Somme's, who once poſſeſſed a ſimilar one, and whoſe connexion and ſituation are much inferior to yours."

" Never mind the inferiority, (ſaid Ella;) proceed with your connexion."

" Why then, (continued Martin, who readily conceived that Ella imagined he had ſent the locket, and in which, from what he intended to ſay, he determined to favour the deluſion) his affection for you is inferior to none. The cauſe of the concealment hitherto of himſelf has ariſen from the impoſſibility of maintaining you in affluence. La Somme's prudence has been adverſe to his wiſhes, ſince he has declared to him in a confidential manner, that his girl ſhall marry at leaſt to as much property as ſhe ſhall bring."

" Well, (ſaid Ella) it were needleſs to obtain my father's conſent without mine, and therefore he proceeds by a retrograde

movement to effect his purpoſe. Only inform me, Albert, of his name and ſituation, and then, if he be diſappointed, he need not ſigh for a hopeleſs attainment. Ella's heart will form its own judgment, and her candour is not prejudiced againſt the man of merit, let his ſituation be leſs eligible than hers."

This was a ſpeech which ruſhed through Albert's ears into his ſoul, filled it with ardour, and ſpread before him a thouſand convictions that the ſpeech was directly applied to him.

" Dear young lady, (exclaimed he) your kindneſs and encouragement have intereſted my heart, and make me diſcloſe a ſecret which it has long painfully endeavoured to ſuppreſs from the eye of La Somme and yourſelf, uncertain whether I might not be conſidered as an abettor againſt the future views he had for his Ella and his own domeſtic comfort. I have been raiſed by his bounty, and charmed by your affability :— and I reſpectfully declare, that the youth who

who has for ſo many months languiſhed for you, and whoſe paſſion has received ſo much encouragement from your looks and lips is"—

"Who?" ſaid a voice at the parlour door, which inſtantly opened, and preſented the figure of La Somme, filled with anger and ſuſpicion: "Who (ſaid he) is the youth who has received encouragement from the looks and lips of Ella?" Confuſion and ſilence enſued. "Sir, (ſaid La Somme) I did not expect an anſwer from the ſelf convicted; one whom I have elevated, and who was underminding my felicity: not having imagined ſuch an intrigue, I could not guard againſt it; but henceforward it will be my concern that the heart of Ella ſhall not be attacked by rapturous nonſenſe, nor led aſtray by needy adventurers. Ella's happineſs centers in me; her intereſt is my ſtudy: but as it is neceſſary to ſee how our accounts ſtand, I muſt draw upon your ſilence, Ella, and requeſt to know how long you have loved Albert?"

"I, (ſaid Ella, who wiſhed herſelf fairly rid of the buſineſs now it was expoſed) "I have not felt that preference which you imagine; mine has been merely reſpect, ſuch as your impartiality and candour would allow."

"But how came he then to propoſe himſelf under ſuch a groſs miſtake?" ſaid La Somme.

"My dear Sir, (ſaid Ella) he has not propoſed himſelf: yeſterday being Valentine's day, he was merely caricaturing the writers of thoſe effuſions in the ſpeeches they make to their miſtreſſes."

"Very ingenious, (ſaid La Somme;) I love a joke, but I really think this was carried too far, and the caricature rather belongs to me than you, when you paſs ſuch an explanation: but if Albert will confeſs the truth of the ſituation now my anger has ſubſided, and what are *his* diſpoſitions towards you, I will be equally candid in the declaration of mine."

"Lord,

"Lord, father! (ſaid Ella, wiſhing to parry off the éclairciſſement) now you are balancing your accounts, and drawing a line between your hopes and your fears, in which we ſhall be on the wrong ſide, we may as well poſtpone the ſettlement to another day."

"Nothing like the time preſent, (ſaid La Somme) and therefore proceed."

"With reſpect to this diſcovery, (ſaid Albert, unwilling to involve Ella) I am wholly to be cenſured. For ſome time I have felt a growing affection for the young lady, which gratitude and reſpect have concealed to this moment. The kindneſs which pleaded on her tongue for us, when my father and I firſt came to your houſe, were ſounds which, iſſuing from ſuch lips, never could be loſt. My ears and eyes were ſoon attracted, and time has added the remaining ſenſes to the ſame power. I may have miſtaken her inclinations, which may be only meant to ſecond your encouragements; but there is no diſgrace in having erred in a miſ-

conception, and yet leſs in avowing an honourable paſſion. I meant to have ſtifled my propoſitions until the means were more adequate to the end. There are doubtleſs many who are better qualified from their perſon, accompliſhments, and fortune, to poſſeſs Ella than myſelf. I ſhall under this declaration retire to my buſineſs, conſcious that I had no motive which was not equally meant to ſecure the felicity of the lovely Ella, you, ſir, and myſelf."

"Well, (ſaid the old gentleman,) the roundneſs of your confeſſion has pleaſed me. Now, Ella, you may retire, and I will ſpeak with you preſently."

"Albert, (continued La Somme) before I can ſpeak farther, it will be neceſſary to open an account with Ella on her inclination. At preſent, my adoption or rejection will remain a ſecret. I do not cenſure ſo ſeverely the liberty you have taken, becauſe in my younger day, the ſame folly had the ſame effect with me; but, nevertheleſs, human nature is much gone out of its plain track.

track. The age of twenty and four years, when I was a lad, is equivalent now to the age of ſixteen, ſo much has the world advanced in forwardneſs; and if the ſame rapidity continues, in a century more, our progeny will ſee their children going to be married in their go-cart, and liſping out the ceremony before they have learned their mother-tongue. But remember, Albert, the beſt recommendations a parent can require are thoſe of integrity and attention to buſineſs: endeavour firſt to eſtabliſh yourſelf before you project more expenſive eſtabliſhments, and then we can talk more to the purpoſe."

Albert then retired with aſſurances that he could not marry in his *tender age* becauſe it was *paſt*, and for his advice, he would endeavour to follow it aſſiduouſly.

La Somme now ſought the apartment to which Ella had retired: Ella's bluſhes confeſſed the lecture which her mind expected, and ſhe was not unprepared to meet it. She ſecretly was happy that ſhe had hidden the

locket; and that it was not known ſhe had ſuch an anonymous correſpondent.

"Ella, (ſaid he) the familiar ſituation in which I ſurpriſed you, ſpeaks more than I can on the ſubject. I am concerned that after having made you ſo long the confidante of my boſom, you have withheld the ſame place from me. How long, my dear, have you experienced Albert's civilities?"

"Why, ſir, he has always been very civil; and ſo ought every young man: beſides you know his gratitude would teach—"

"The gratitude, my love, is due to me: I wiſh to know how long you have felt an affection for him."

"If by affection you mean love, ſir, I have felt no other paſſion than great reſpect for him."

"Come, Ella, be ingenuous: is there any one you prefer to Albert? Do not heſitate, for on your confeſſion depends in a great meaſure the plan I mean to adopt with reſpect to him."

"Dear

"Dear ſir, you confeſs me ſo cloſe, that I hope if my declaration ſhould offend, you will abſolve me. I feel that his perſon and abilities are both reſpectable: I am not inſenſible to his attentions, but in a queſtion of preference, how can I decide, who have centered all my comforts hitherto in yourſelf. It is at preſent too early, ſir, and may, from unforeſeen cauſes, raiſe a hope in his boſom which may not be realized. There is no hurry, and ſome time hence I will make up my mind wholly on the ſubject, and inform you of the reſult."

"Well, Ella, that may be the moſt prudent: what may be loſt in time, may be gained information, and I ſhall ſoon put in execution a ſcheme for your mutual benefit."

Here was an interpoſition of adverſe effects: Ella, from the developement of her little amour, conceived it no longer worthy her attention, and wiſhed to paſs it off as a bagatelle on her part: La Somme thought otherwiſe, and he conceived he ſhould ſe-

cond

cond her inclination, and provide for her agreeably to her wiſhes, when he had put Albert into a train of advancement: he took, therefore, a proper opportunity of informing Albert, that Ella's converſation had been as favourable to him as he could wiſh.

Ella felt his merit, and knew that he loved her; but her paſſion was in the wane, while his ſtoic affection was certainly a defect; and there were few laſſes of the health and age of Ella who might not have thought ſo, for females ever diſlike inſipidity.

If there are hours in life which claim a precedency in happineſs, the golden days of courtſhip muſt rank as primary: how much does the romantic union of art and nature impulſively lead to the tender paſſion! The promenades of youth, under a ſerene ſummer ſky, at evening, fill the mind, in a well cultivated and variegated country, with the idea of Paradiſe, and themſelves ſtraying like the firſt pair. The ſurrounding calmneſs

neſs is transferred to the mind, and the ruddy health of youth ſhews the impulſe in frequent obſervations on the beauty of nature. In admiring the productions of the All-powerful Moderator of matter, they transfer their admiration from the inanimate to the moſt perfect of his works—to themſelves: on one ſide the reflecting ſtream, inviting from the fervid heat, flows ſilently along; on the other, the ponderous rows of elms form a cooling ſhade, between whoſe huge trunks are ſeen, alternately, the rich paſture and the golden harveſt, cut down and ſheaved, bending its ears and taking its laſt farewell of the univerſal mother that reared it: beyond which the ſloping hills reflect the ſame colour, and ſhew that nature has done her part, and leaves the reſt to man.

All-bountiful Nature! (let us digreſs a little) thy boſom, flowing with milk and honey, bears nothing on it more diſſatisfied than him thou haſt created: he transfers not the liberal example thou ſetteſt him to his fellow men, but is too often employed in deſtroying

deſtroying thy munificence, becauſe thy impartial hand has fertilized a ſpot of earth which he wiſhes to poſſeſs: thy bleſſings are unlimited; thy produce is a free-will offering every where; but his gifts are confined to a few ſquare yards of earth, and inſults thy example by levelling thy works, becauſe his neighbour lives on the oppoſite ſide of a mountain, or is parted from him by a narrow channel of water! The theme would lead us into too extenſive a digreſſion, therefore let us return to the beauties of nature without defacing the picture by the ingratitude of her children.

Thus the walk of lovers is prolonged till a ſeat preſents itſelf, raiſed by ſome kind hand for the accommodation of the weary and the obſerver: this invites to a more cloſe converſation, and language interprets ſoon the meaning of the tell-tale looks. Mutual delight imparts mutual confidence, and impreſſions are conveyed inſenſibly from the hand to the heart: dilectable rambles, enchanting converſations! ye are the moſt delicious

licious moments of our lives, when founded on virtuous and honourable impulſes! and renew in old age, when it halts for breath at the ſame ſeat where once the lover declared his affection, the pleaſing recollection of the joys that have been.—

But to return.—

La Somme ſhortly after procured a reſpectable ſituation in a conſiderable mercantile houſe for Albert, and adviſed him to ſtudy aſſiduouſly the Engliſh language. Here Albert's diligence ſucceeded, and he paſſed an agreeable time between the proſperous avocations of buſineſs and his attendance on Ella. In about two months from this time the concern of the houſe required that they ſhould ſend a perſon of credit to London to ſettle ſome diſpute, and give evidence in a court of law; this buſineſs was deputed to Martin. He accepted, reluctantly, the commiſſion, notwithſtanding La Somme ſaid that it might afford him an opportunity of cementing a mercantile connection, and eſtabliſhing himſelf. At the end of two months more

more Albert embraced the undertaking with pleaſure—ſo changeable is the aſpect of our proſpects in a ſhort time.

The old gentleman experienced an embarraſſment at this juncture, from the receipt of a letter from his friend, to whom he had, in part, ſometime before affianced Ella. The propoſals it contained were fair, honourable, and advantageous. La Somme had hitherto ſaid nothing on the ſubject, becauſe he had pleaded the youth of Ella as a ſufficient reaſon, but the young gentleman's father admitted this no longer as an excuſe. The young man he had never ſeen, becauſe he was abſent from home; indeed, his connection with the father was the effect of chance, and whoſe accidental commencement of friendſhip has been enumerated before.

We can more eaſily penetrate the motive of the *minor domo* (for the *major* was the wife) than La Somme: he found that La Somme and himſelf coincided in religion and politics; and, as his wife was for preſerving

ſerving all things political and ſacred in any ſhape rather than a *new one*, and was a warm catholic, he reſolved to indulge himſelf in pitting the two together. He loved the ſocial glaſs; and La Somme too, at theſe times, preferred being at a friend's table to the accommodations of an inn.

Here La Somme paſſed an agreeable evening; and when the liquor had unlocked the views, ſituation, and circumſtances of the bacchanalian friends, it was perceived that in a ſhort time the ſon of the one would make an eligible match for the daughter of the other, and that the fates ſeemed in this rencontre to have ordered it ſhould be ſo. A doctrine which his beloved wife declared aroſe from his ignorance, for the fates had made *her* conſent neceſſary, and *that* ſhe never would give. Indeed, it may be fairly ſtated that neither knew any thing of the high decrees of thoſe ladies, who, in the end, deceived them both. La Somme admitted her diſcernment was good, at the time he maintained, that the great powers did

did play very unaccountable games with us. When midnight had fathomed the bottom of the bowls and glaſſes, La Somme promiſed that he would reviſit his friend the firſt time he paſſed his way—and this he intended to carry into execution when he journeyed on from farmer Martin's, to whoſe houſe he had conducted Ella, as we have before mentioned.

The arrival of this letter from Mr. Fryherr, was ſeveral weeks after La Somme's diſcovery of Albert and Ella's connection; but the object of it ſeemed to be quite ſuſpended by Albert's inclination for Ella. Notwithſtanding Albert had quitted La Somme's houſe, he was admitted at all times with the moſt affectionate welcome. La Somme, immediately after the peruſal of the letter, ran with it into the garden, where Ella was thoughtfully ſtepping to the ſlow time of a dead march. "Come, Ella, (ſaid he) I have juſt received a preſſing requeſt from my friend, to introduce his ſon to you; but that would be an idle ceremony; for, though you

you jokingly told me, ſome time ago, that you had reſerved a vacancy in your heart, it muſt have been, by this time, filled up. But I obſerve you look ſerious and languid: what makes you dull, when every thing looks gay around? To many a girl it would be a joyful ſubject to have two *ſtrings* to her *bow*, or, as one may ſay rather, two *beaus* to your *ſtring!*"

"Well, my dear ſir, (ſaid Ella) let me know the particulars, and perhaps my ſpirits will catch ſome of your hilarity, and be the better for the communication."

"Briefly then, the buſineſs is a propoſal of marriage from an old friend."

"What! from the father of Albert, I ſuppoſe!"

"Ah! Ella, I ſee where your inclination tends; but it is from another quarter: he requeſts an immediate anſwer; and this, though I know your determination beforehand, I would not give withour conſulting you. Albert's affection is ſo fixed, and his induſtry ſo ſucceſsful, that I have projected a plan

a plan of partnerſhip for his advantage."— Ella liſtened with ſurpriſe, and aſked what plan he had deviſed for increaſing the obligations under which Albert laid?

"Why, (returned La Somme) I have formed a connexion here for him, with ſome conſiderable tradeſmen and merchants of the towns on the coaſt; and as he is ſhortly deputed to go to London, I mean him to reſide there, and execute the orders on his own account; I have given him recommendatory letters to thoſe who can ſerve him when he arrives. But you ſtill ſeem dull, and do not ſmile upon the good things I have been planning for you;—how is it, Ella?"

"Dear ſir, I behold with gratitude the kind ſchemes you have projected, but I am leſs ſanguine than you of their object. My heart, I candidly confeſs, was intereſted in Albert's favour from his affable conduct, and that has been augmented ſince I traced in your opinion, that his addreſſes were conformable to your approbation: and now, while

while you ſo kindly endeavour to probe the cauſe which has wounded me, I am induced to make a diſcovery which I received yeſterday, incloſed in another note, and which contained a few lines written in a hand that I have ſeen before. I had determined not to have mentioned it, but it would be unjuſt to ſuffer you to proceed in raiſing a man whoſe title to encouragement is doubtful. This is the cauſe, (taking out the letter) of the different paſſions of affection, diſguſt, and pride, which have clouded my looks this morning."

"Let me ſee, (cried La Somme, wiping his ſpectacles) ſome miſtake I am ſure." The old gentleman then read the following note:—

"The writer of this note, devoted to the welfare of the lady to whom it is addreſſed, has fortunately had the incloſed paper put in his way: he has ſuppreſſed the improper and immaterial part of it, and conveyed only that which is of the higheſt importance."

La

La Somme then proceeded to the inclosed, which contained only the torn-half of a letter, with the address on the back.

" Circumstances at present prevent me from seeing you; but this I fully intend, and perhaps if you should go to England, I can safely, and without suspicion, go with you and settle there. Write, therefore, and let me know when you go, and what my father says of me. My affection is equally unabated by absence; and though the object of it has been so long silent, I am conscious it is not his fault. You can assure my father that all will be well at last. My dear Albert, I rely on your secrecy, and think the time long till I can fly into your affectionate protection; you have, no doubt, the same anxiety. I am happy to hear that La Somme's daughter and you are on such friendly terms; if it produce nothing else, it will procure your advancement. You have not yet returned the locket; surely it takes a long while repairing; or, what I fear,

fear you have miſlaid it; an event which I would not have taken place, for the donor's ſake, on any account. Receive my warmeſt wiſhes, and ſuppreſs from every one the knowledge of our intercourſe, which"—

Here the fragment of the letter was cloſed; ſuch were the contents of this paper, which were calculated to convey doubts and uneaſineſs to all parties. La Somme and Ella ſcrutinized them with the moſt ſevere accuracy; and agreed that from the poſt mark, and other appearances, it was authentic, and plainly diſcovered an actual exiſting amour with ſome unknown female, on the part of Albert. The hand was feminine, and Ella now was convinced that the locket ſhe had received was the ſame mentioned in the letter, and which Albert had uſed for the double purpoſe of deceiving them both. This, as we have mentioned before, Ella had ſecreted when La Somme ſurpriſed her and Albert; and as he had never been informed of it, ſhe could not

conſiſtently divulge it now: beſides, ſhe conceived there was plenty of materials to work upon, till ſhe had obtained a ſight of the young gentleman, about whom her father had then come to her.

"Good heaven!" cried La Somme, "who could have foreſeen this?"

"It is very wrong," ſaid Ella, "and may alter the nature of the anſwer which we ſhould have ſent to your friend."

"True," ſaid La Somme, "I muſt promiſe to conſult you on the buſineſs, and thus delay ſending a final anſwer till this buſineſs is cleared up: in the mean time I ſhall take an opportunity of informing Albert of the diſcovery, and giving him the means of diſperſing the cloud which is hanging over him."

Second thoughts, ſays the brief proverb, are beſt; and La Somme, when he had retired, ſuggeſted to himſelf, that if any female partiality did exiſt in Albert previous to that avowed for Ella, it could not be unknown to his father, Martin; he, therefore,

fore, wrote to Martin, and requeſted to know if his ſon's affections were diſengaged. The farmer returned an anſwer containing aſſurances that he had never heard his ſon prefer one woman to another.

The letter was received; and, big with expectation and ſuſpenſe, was broken open in council by La Somme and Ella: when they had read it, they looked at each other with the eye of enquiry, to know if nothing more was contained in it.

"Why the letter ſays nothing," ſaid La Somme; while Ella maintained that it had a darker aſpect than before, ſince the father was unacquainted with the concealment of this unknown amour.

It happened fortunately for Albert, that, on the morning before this great diſcovery was made, La Somme had ſent for him, pregnant with ſurpriſing him, and executing the plan he had concealed.

La Somme, who loved to be comical in his way, and ſcatter thorns at firſt that he

might afterwards cover them with roſes, addreſſed Albert on his entrance—

"Well, ſir, do you know that a buſineſs has tranſpired which will lay you under a ſentence of tranſportation?"

"How, ſir!—tranſported for what!" exclaimed the half-frightened Albert.

"You are accuſed of having repeatedly entered the dwelling-houſe of a friend, and ſtolen away his property!"

"*I*, ſir,—I have committed no ſuch crime;—you only joke, ſir."

"Faith, I do not joke; I believe it is too true."

"You alarm me, ſir; where is my accuſer?"

"I am your accuſer; and what I aſſert I am able to prove:—Ella, you rogue, Ella—I mean; you have ſtolen her heart; and I have juſt formed a plan to continue you in the poſſeſſion of it lawfully:—do you own yourſelf guilty?"

"I do; and will abide by the puniſhment you ſhall award."

"Then,

"Then, ſir, ſign your name under mine. This is a joint ſecurity I have entered into for your benefit, and as an indemnification for the truſt which your employer may repoſe in you: here, alſo, are recommendations to ſeveral foreign houſes, to enable you to commence buſineſs on your account, when you reach England: only be proſperous, and I ſhall be contented."

Albert put his hand to the inſtrument, and then ſhook that of La Somme; and while he uttered the words—"Sir, you are too good!" a drop of clear water drawn from the well of gratitude, roſe in each eye, and diſappeared as ſuddenly from the ſtruggle he made to ſuppreſs it.

"In a few days," continued Albert, after a few moments pauſe, "I ſhall ſet out for Hamburgh, to go on ſhip board, according to the nature of my preſent engagement. I ſhall leave you, ſir, with my beſt prayers, and think the time very long till I ſhall ſee Ella and you again."

Here ended the beſt dialogue he had heard for ſome time: the next, according to La Somme's principle, was to balance it on the other ſide.

Ella was inwardly ſatisfied, that theſe circumſtances had tranſpired, and reconciled herſelf the more eaſily to any égarement which might take place on her part, ſince her encouragement had been the cauſe of Albert's advancement; and if, during his abſence in England, no other lover ſhould offer himſelf, (a thing not very probable to a charming and animated girl) ſhe would ſtill be aſſured of the affection of Albert, by averring that ſhe diſbelieved the anonymous ſlander caſt upon him.

Ella, having thus adjuſted her ſcheme, was anxious, ſince his father's letter had not implicated him, that La Somme ſhould inveſtigate the matter more cloſely: ſhe, therefore, aſked him how he propoſed to arrive at a farther knowledge of the affair. La Somme thought a judicious obſervance of his conduct would be the beſt means; and

if

if rightly conſidered, there was nothing ſingular in a young man having at a former period received a civil letter from a female; and therefore no conſtruction ſhould be formed more than what it would with propriety bear.

"For my part," continued he, "after the great things I have done for him, and the grateful manner with which he feels them, he could not wound me ſo deeply: nevertheleſs, as deception does but too frequently aſſume the maſk of virtue, you muſt cautiouſly fix your affection on a perſon whoſe love may be divided."

"Indeed," ſaid Ella, "the ſhorteſt track in a rugged walk is the beſt. You can demand of him to-morrow evening, when he comes, an explanation; this will bring the uncertainty to a criſis: if he heſitate, and refuſe the required ſatisfaction, it will be an evident confirmation that he has a miſtreſs ſomewhere, and is thus undermining my happineſs and your friendſhip."

"The ſcheme is good," ſaid La Somme, "and muſt be executed to night, for he proceeds on his journey immediately. If he prove unworthy, I will revoke every thing I have done for him; and I will—"

"All but your written agreement," ſaid Ella, "but I yet hope he will acquit himſelf handſomely." For Ella did not wiſh that he ſhould be abandoned, becauſe ſhe was well diſpoſed, though no longer warmly attached to him.

Albert received a note that day inviting him to a laſt ſupper before his journey to the ſea-coaſt, to join the ſhip: he came full of the overflowings of a heart beloved and befriended. Agitated with the kindneſs, and oppreſſed with the fears of parting from Ella, his countenance wore a preſentiment of the charge that was to follow the ſupper.

During a moment of La Somme's abſence, he ſeized the opportunity of entwining his hands with thoſe of Ella, and preſſed them to his lips; recommending her to the

preſer-

preſervation of heaven, and himſelf to the entire poſſeſſion of her affection.

Ella loſt for a moment her unſteady and changeable nature, and reſponded to his oriſons. During this mutual mixture of endearments and promiſes to correſpond by letter, La Somme entered, and even mingled his voluntary offering to the ſpontaneous eye-drops of nature.

When the cloth was removed, La Somme began:—

"Albert," ſaid he, "having hitherto felt the higheſt eſteem for you, and willing that your intereſt ſhould become my own, I have encouraged your attachment to Ella: on her happineſs depends mine; and I ſhould be wanting in that duty and affection ſhe feels for me, if I neglected the means of inveſtigating the character and deſigns of the man who may become her huſband."

"Certainly," ſaid Albert, and the colour of his lips overſpread his face.

"Therefore, ſir, a letter has been remitted to us by a friend, the contents of which

are of an ambiguous nature: look at the hand writing, and ſee if you are acquainted with it."

Albert took it, and confeſſed that it was indeed his property.

"Then, ſir, to whom was it written?"

"To me," ſaid the agitated youth, who had not for a moment conceived the conſtruction they had put upon this fragment of the letter.

"Where did it come from?"

"It came from Zell, ſir."

"How long have you had it in your poſſeſſion?"

"Some weeks, ſir."

"And next, who is the writer of it?"

"Pardon me, ſir, if I withhold that anſwer; it is a ſecret repoſed in me which my confidence will not permit me to reveal."

"How, ſir,—not permit you to reveal! If the tranſaction were honourable there would be nothing to conceal. Is your father acquainted with the writer, and the contents of the letter? I ſee he is mentioned in it."

"He

"He is acquainted with the writer, ſir, but can know nothing of the contents of the paper."

"This is alſo a deception; for I have written to Martin, and he is wholly unacquainted with any female from whom ſuch a letter could come."

"In that caſe, ſir, he has not ſeen the writing, or had not recollected."

"Now, ſir," ſaid La Somme, riſing, "it appears to me that I am entitled to a thorough ſatisfaction reſpecting the motives and the writer of the letter; and the intereſt Ella muſt feel in your ſatisfactory anſwer ſhould not have produced prevarication and contradiction. The man who poſſeſſes her muſt have his affection undivided, and not have the wickedneſs to ſwear the ſame affection for two at once. Your concealment is a proof you have nothing to urge in defence:—Unfortunate Ella!" And he traverſed the room, ſtroking his chin, biteing his nails, and looking, *en paſſant*, at Albert, who ſat, unobſerving, in a profound

reverie. He now perceived that the ſecret he was in poſſeſſion of was likely to involve him in inextricable difficulty; that the developement of it would, by his explanation, be told to his father, who would reproach him with a want of filial duty; and by the ſteps he might in conſequence purſue, produce a chain of unfortunate conſequences. Equally, therefore, at a loſs to proceed in a ſatisfactory manner to himſelf, whether to diſturb the tranquillity of his own family, or ſuffer, without juſtification, the reproaches of La Somme, and the loſs of Ella's love, he continued in the ſame muſing poſture, when he was awakened again by La Somme obſerving, that, as he had had ſufficient time to have produced ſomething, he ſhould conſider his ſilence as the tacit admiſſion of the charge.

At length, after a conflict of reſolutions, impelled by fear, and repelled by love, he determined to compound the buſineſs, and anſwered—

" Pardon

"Pardon me, it is aſtoniſhment, and not conviction, that has cloſed my tongue. If you will indulge me with your ſecreſy, I will explain as much as is neceſſary for my exculpation."

"Upon my honour," ſaid La Somme and Ella.

"Then, ſir, briefly, you have miſtaken the expreſſions of ſiſterly affection for the declarations of love: the writer of this letter is my ſiſter, the daughter of the man whom your kindneſs has reinſtated in comfort. My ſiſter has for a conſiderable time purſued an unfavourable conduct, and has loſt my father's friendſhip from the ſuſpicion he entertains of her behaviour. She has repoſed every confidence in me, and will, I doubt not, finally regain her father's affection. The former part of this letter would have explained the circumſtances to which I allude, and rendered every doubt of relationſhip impoſſible, but unfortunately it has not been conveyed entire; therefore, ſir, let me

me intreat you not to attach to a prudent delicacy any criminality of intention."

"Your ſiſter! (ſaid La Somme, in a manner that depends more upon the tone of voice than the word to give it a ſtrong meaning.) I ſhall not judge haſtily, but liſten to the evidence you adduce in ſupport of it: if your ſiſter has been in the habit of writing to you before, you can produce a former letter."

Here, unfortunately, Albert was poſed, for he had not the previous epiſtle by him, and the former ones he had burned.

"Sir," ſaid he, "I have not one by me; the latter ones were loſt with my pocket-book, and the former were deſtroyed becauſe they poſſeſſed nothing worth preſerving."

"Admitting this explanation to be true, you can gratify me in another particular; if you have deſtroyed the letters, you have preſerved the locket."

Fortune was reſolved to perſecute Albert, who was compelled to ſtate the unſatisfac-

tory

ſory truth "That he had loſt it at the ſame time with the pocket-book, and had never been able to diſcover the thief."

Here Ella looked confuſed, and retired, who actually was in poſſeſſion of the locket, which Albert could not with propriety have claimed at this time, nor Ella without indignation from La Somme have had her concealment of it explained, ſince ſhe had never worn it, but kept it concealed from La Somme.

"Once more, is your father in poſſeſſion of any of your ſiſter's letters?"

"I believe not: ſhe has not correſponded with him at any time—always with me."

"This is ſtrange again; but," ſaid La Somme, "we can remove this difficulty by writing to her."

"Doubtleſs, ſir, ſince I cannot ſatisfy your ſuſpicions, this is the laſt reſort: I will give you her name and addreſs, or I will undertake the taſk, ſubmitting the letter to your

your previous perusal, which will I hope remove every doubt. I should indeed forfeit every claim to gratitude and protection, if I could be capable of such an unhandsome deception. By comparing the similarity of the hand-writing, and the contents of the letter, you will then be fully convinced—I hope, sir, you are satisfied."

"I cannot refuse this testimony: I shall only suspend my full conviction till the receipt from Zell; and as it will take some days in coming, the event of this evening shall be now no obstruction to your journey." Albert then gave him her address.

The lovely Ella was now called in, and formed a trio. She saw by La Somme's manner, that harmony was restored; and the mental music of conversation seemed the sweeter from the removal of the harsh sounds which had obstructed it. Ten o'clock tolled forth his solemn notes, and after some full bumpers of wine, (synonimous of the overflowings of his heart,) to friendship, trade

trade, and love, he drank a parting glaſs to La Somme, to his beloved Ella, and all he held dear at Stettin; he ſhook hands, and took his final leave of the animated reward which was to repay him for the induſtries and fatigues of buſineſs in a foreign capital.

Albert ſet forward on his journey the following day, under the full aſſurance that he had removed every ambiguity in his conduct. He arrived ſafely in England, and reached the place of his deſtination, where he was immediately employed in the concerns of the houſe: after a few days had elapſed, he diſpatched a letter upon buſineſs to La Somme, and another of a more tender nature to Ella. He waited impatiently for an anſwer during three weeks, at the end of which time, he wrote nearly in the ſame tenor again: theſe likewiſe produced no return, and after waiting a longer time than before, he ſent a pathetic farewell letter, n which he confeſſed the laſting obligations he ſhould ever lie under to La Somme, for the

the train of advancement he had through his kindneſs arrived to; regretting the unhappy cauſes which had deprived him of Ella's correſpondence, who would always find his heart uniformly and ſolely devoted to her happineſs. Having thus remitted his laſt letter, he determined, if poſſible, to baniſh the female divinity from his boſom, or loſe her amidſt the occupations of buſineſs; therefore, with an aſſurance to our readers, that we have left him in a proſperous way, we ſhall for the preſent take our leave of him, after a few words on the actual loſs of the letter and locket which Albert had ſuſtained.

Returning home on horſeback from a commiſſion he had been executing, Albert, a ſhort time before the diſcovery of his amour by La Somme, had been ſtopped on the road by a man tolerably mounted. A maſk he wore prevented him from diſcerning his features; Albert's horſe was not of the phæton breed, "*ocyor cervo, ocyor nimbos*;" he,

he, therefore, after the ſecond demand, ſtruck the piſtol arm of the highwayman, and, jumping from his horſe, ſeized him by the collar, and pulled him from his ſaddle; in the ſtruggle, his maſk came off, and though he knew nothing of his features, the impreſſion of the voice and ſize preſented to his memory a figure ſomewhere previouſly known. At the moment when he hoped to have taken him, he drew a ſecond piſtol, and with imprecations threatened, if he reſiſted farther, he would ſhoot him. Albert delivered upon this unequal riſk his pocket-book, containing ſome letters of his ſiſter's, and a ſmall ſum of money he had collected for La Somme: from his perſon he alſo took the locket, and then re-mounting his horſe, bid him thank God that he had met with ſuch merciful treatment on the road, when he deſerved death by the beſt highwayman's law in the land.

Albert, when he got home, ſaid little of the robbery, and made up the miſſing ſum from

from his own ſtock, that no doubts might ariſe in La Somme's mind. This is briefly the hiſtory of a tranſaction upon which it will not be neceſſary to enlarge farther at preſent.

The good opinion which La Somme entertained at the departure of Albert had entirely vaniſhed before the receipt of his ſecond letter. La Somme had written a letter of information to his ſiſter, at Zell, ſtating that Albert was ill, and intreated a ſpeedy anſwer, directing it according to the addreſs it was to bear. No anſwer having arrived, La Somme conceived that it might have miſcarried, and therefore directed another to a friend nearly reſident, requeſting him to enquire for the young perſon by her name, and come to a perſonal explanation. His friend, in return, informed him that he had made diligent enquiry, that he had been in the identical houſe, but nothing was known of the perſon inquired for.

La

La Somme now openly gave way to his convictions, and loaded the unſuſpicious Albert with unfriendly epithets; in the mean time other circumſtances were ariſing to caſt more opprobium on the former, and involve Ella in ſtronger implications.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

HAVING finiſhed our retrograde movement nearly, and conducted Ella to the detail of her amour with the officer, we ſhall now proceed to follow up in ſubſtance the relation which ſhe continued to her friend, Miſs Brun, when they had retired to reſt on the ſecond night.

It was in a fortnight from the departure of Albert, that the rencontre between Ella and the officer happened: when we left him he had paid his firſt private viſit to Ella, and had quitted the town. The uncertainty which Ella felt at ſeeing him again was ſoon relieved by a note, appointing a time and place of meeting at a retired walk from the high road: an interview took place, and an hour was ſpeedily paſt in explaining to her new

new lover the ſituation and embarraſſments ſhe laid under to Albert, in canvaſſing the difficulties of obtaining La Somme's permiſſion to his viſits from his military capacity, and a thouſand avowals of mutual regard and eſteem. Ella thought them among the ſweeteſt moments of her life; and they parted under a mutual promiſe of correſpondence. With a gallant air in quitting her, he drew from his pocket a handſome ring, and taking the hand of Ella, placed it on the fourth finger; hoping, he ſaid, it would not be the only one he ſhould put there. Ella bluſhed, and ſecretly hoped the ſame.

This ſecond interview, in another fortnight, was followed by a third billet-doux, which informed her, with ſome concern, that he could not, from his uncertainty of return, ſtate when he could ſee her, as the opportunity which might be convenient for him would render it improper for her. He aſſured her he ſhould neglect no opportunity of an interview; and in the mean time ſhe might

might rely on his affection. Ella ſoon drew out a rough ſketch of an anſwer, and ſhe copied a fair letter, which ſhe delivered to the meſſenger appointed to receive it; and locked up the letter and the anſwer in her drawer.

Ella, who was the ſuperintendant of the houſhold department, was in the habit of paying and receiving monies on that account, the receipts for which were always depoſited with her: a bill was at this time brought in, which La Somme recollected to have paid, and recourſe was had to every viſible receipt in the houſe. His anxiety to find it increaſed with the difficulty, and as he remembered having given it to Ella, an order was iſſued to inveſt her repoſitories: an anſwer was ſoon reported that it was not in the drawers that were open. Ella was gone to paſs two days with a friend, and curioſity could not be ſo long delayed, therefore La Somme, armed with a hammer and chiſſel, mounted up ſtairs, exclaiming againſt theſe fortreſſes in which ſhe could ſecrete her correſpon-

reſpondence. The interior of the toilette was firſt invaded, and all the blandiſhments of dreſs and ornament, which ſerve to heighten female charms, and round off the roughneſſes of mother Nature, were inſpected; and to a man of La Somme's plain habit were productive of ſome amuſement and inquietude to learn their uſes: but as theſe *materia fœmina* produced not the object, he commenced hoſtilities on the ſtrong holds, which would not ſurrender at a firſt ſummons: Unlucky warfare! it was in one of theſe drawers that the locket laid, the ring ſhe had lately received from the officer, and the rough draught of the laſt letter Ella had ſent to her lover. La Somme retired without finding the miſſing receipt; and in deſcending the ſtairs, obſerved, that, if he had loſt one receipt, he had found a more important one.

How different are the compoſitions which we mix together to make up the recipe of happineſs; that of Ella was centered in her new connexion, and in preſerving from La

Somme's ſuſpicion every avenue to a knowledge of it; which ſhe had imagined, from La Somme's having once ſurpriſed her and Albert, could be more ſafely carried on without doors than within. A little pungency on Albert's account would ſometimes ariſe in her boſom, and notwithſtanding the miſt in which he was obſcured, ſhe ſincerely believed a little explanation was all that was requiſite to remove it.—She was now occupied by a more daſhing object.

Albert's happineſs was placed in the contemplation of poſſeſſing all that bliſs which ſprings from an union of beauty and virtue; nor had he a doubt but time and his perſonal preſence, when he could take a journey back to the continent, would remove La Somme's diſpleaſure.

La Somme, who looked up to the eligible ſettlement of Ella as the *ne plus ultra* of his wiſhes, found his embarraſſments, from this new diſcovery, increaſe with her age. He had ſcarcely extricated her from one engagement of a ſuſpicious complexion, but ſhe was

was involved in another which he had no means of penetrating. He reſolved that no connexion of any deſcription ſhould exiſt through any other medium than his own, and therefore he earneſtly waited for the return of the next evening, which would bring Ella home, and ſubject her to his ſevere inveſtigation.

Ella flew home at the appointed time, and ran to embrace the worthy La Somme with all the vivacity with which ſhe often amuſed him. But ſhe very ſoon underſtood that her *ſanctum ſanctorum* had been violated, and her treaſures ſeized. La Somme had ſearched, and ſhe knew he muſt have found enough to excite ſuſpicion; and Ella, therefore, like a prudent general, judging of the parts which were the moſt defenceleſs, prepared in the beſt manner for the attack.

"Ella, my dear, (ſaid La Somme, when they were alone) I have found in your drawer a locket, to whom does it belong?"

"To me, ſir, (ſaid Ella) I own it."

" Very ſhrewd, Ella!—but to whom then did it belong?"

" Really that would in many caſes be hardly a fair queſtion: but I really do not know to whom it did belong"

" It appears to me that the locket is the ſame as that mentioned in Albert's letter."

" I believe your conjecture is right; and when I received it in this anonymous way, I ſhewed it to him, but he did not claim it as his own."

" Well, my dear, I am willing to be ſatisfied with your explanation.—But here is a ring, with a curious painting of a young woman and her little boy, looking to a grave old man, who ſeems to be an incendary by the fire-brands that are about him. What does this mean, and who gave you this?"

" Lord, ſir, you do not underſtand the heathen mythology: this young woman and her little boy are Venus and Cupid; and the other is Hymen, the god of marriage: And as for who gave it me, ſir, why—why, ſir, I had

had it *from — from Albert*, the night in which he ſupped here laſt—he gave me this as a keepſake."

" What have you to do with the heathens?—They do not care about you; and therefore you ſhould not have accepted it:—but it was ſtrange it ſhould be wrapped up in this note."

" No, ſir, not at all—I wrapped it in that becauſe it came firſt to hand."

" Thirdly, and finally, Ella, here is a note, with an evident reply to it in your writing. This is a ſubject on which I want explanation. The note is briefly an excuſe for the omiſſion of an intended interview."

This was the fiery ordeal from which Ella had to extricate herſelf: with great addreſs, therefore, ſhe ſaid with a ſmile, " Why, my reverend ſir, if we had but a pulpit for you, and a few gothic windows, you look with ſo much gravity in your ſpectacles, and read ſo diſtinctly, I ſhould think we were at lecture. — But, do not you conceive that the whole letter is merely

a joke, and ſo let us conceive it as ſuch, and ſay no more about it."

"I hope, Ella, it is what you deſcribe it to be; and in that caſe there will be the leſs trouble to explain it: ſo let us have the particulars, for I love a jeſt, though it be at my own expence, if you make it."

"The particulars are then, that I compoſed the letter for a young lady of my acquaintance, who is courted by a handſome young man, and ſhe cannot write as well as ſhe can love."

"I believe the young lady you compoſed it for (ſaid La Somme, ſternly) is yourſelf; but if I am wrong, as you are the confidante, you can ſatisfy my doubts."

"Ah! (ſaid Ella, archly) you forget that the buſineſs of a confidante is not to reveal ſecrets; and I am ſure, ſir, you would not have me betray my truſt."

"No, Ella, nor your character neither.—The tenderneſs and affection with which I have raiſed you up from infancy are claims that warrant a minute enquiry into your conduct

conduct and connexions at the delicate period of life at which you have arrived. The judicious diſpoſal of yourſelf will conduct you to years of proſperity and ſunſhine.—The indulgence of irregular inclinations will conduce to the loſs of domeſtic felicity, and cloud the cheering reflections which enlivens the evening of life. My experience and knowledge have been exerted in the formation of your education, and you have hitherto given me all the return I ever wiſhed to receive,—a deſire to pleaſe, and a reliance on my indulgence and foreſight. You have no natural claim to my bounty—Ella, you are not my daughter!"

"Sir,—not your daughter! (exclaimed Ella;) how can that be, when I have always called you by the kind name of father!"

"My affection placed the title of daughter on you; and I adopted you from affection only, which has a more juſt claim than birth. I found you nurſed by a miſerable cottager, whoſe poverty could very ill ſtruggle with a diſeaſe which then attacked his

wife and children. To eaſe his affliction and ſave you from the contagious putridity, I took you in the chaiſe home with me for a few months, intending to return you when there was no longer any danger; when I reviſited the village, death had levelled the whole family with the duſt; no one ſurvived to impart whoſe name you bore, or from whence you had been delivered to their care. I then bore the tender flower back, which I had purpoſed to conſign to them, and planted it under my own eye: I ſent you to boarding-ſchool under a particular friend, and viſited you with all the kindeſt attentions; and from that period to this I have never ceaſed to adorn your mind and perſon by every accompliſhment and expence which it is requiſite a tradeſman's daughter ſhould attain to.

"Deprived of my wife by the cruel hand of fate, I became more attached to you, Ella, and curſed the cauſe of my misfortune the leſs, becauſe fate had balanced the evil by the comforts I ſaw ariſing in your ſociety and con-

converſation. Arrived now at the period in which you are capable of tracing the lovelineſs of virtue, I diſcerned no impropriety in encouraging the addreſſes and hopes of Albert, though placed in a ſituation beneath my intention. At that time they were acceptable to you, and to ſecond your inclination, I inwardly reaſoned that the traits of induſtry and honour he diſcovered were more than equivalent to wealth. The circumſtances which have ſince ariſen have taken from him my eſteem and friendſhip; if your love had been truly what it ought to have been, the melancholy would have ſcarcely been diſſipated by this time: Ella, this is now accounted for; when I find that you have formed a ſecond engagement without my conſultation, and managed with all the dexterity of intrigue, I fear that your heart is light and volatile, eaſily to repel, and eaſily attracted by every object that flutters in your eye. Scarcely can the affection you felt, if it were ſincere for Albert, have been cooled; and on the wreck of that

you are building a ſtructure, which, from its myſtery, muſt be inſecure. Let me intreat you, Ella—I am ſtill your father—let me intreat you for our mutual good, by giving me your confidence to diſcloſe the particulars, and thus regain the place you held in my former eſteem."

Ella's heart was not impervious to this earneſt addreſs; the ſincerity of it, and the wonderful intelligence it contained, burſt forth in an exclamation of "My dear father!" and ſhe ruſhed into his opened arms. "I will diſcloſe, (ſaid ſhe) all the particulars you are deſirous to know. You are too generous, too juſt, to condemn the affection of any man before you know who he is: the interviews I have had with him have been very few, and the ſpecial reaſon he has not introduced himſelf, is the knowledge he has learned of me of your averſion to the dangerous profeſſion of an officer;—though—my dear ſir, indeed, whatever they may be, he is an exception: ſomething has hitherto intervened always to prevent the diſcloſing of

of his name and family, but I am well aſſured, by what he ſaid, he is of noble—

"Poh! noble—(ſaid La Somme) I always ſuſpect nobility when it keeps itſelf ſo ſecret."

"But, ſir, there may be reaſons:—we muſt not judge ill when the motive appears favourable: perhaps the reſult of prudence, and ſome ill-natured relations."

"In the mean time, (ſaid La Somme) all the particulars you know at preſent merely amount to no knowledge at all: and remember that I have your promiſe that no correſpondence or converſation ſhall paſs under pain of worſe puniſhment, unleſs I am made a party."

Ella bowed her head, and they parted with a very different view of things, notwithſtanding the ſhort ebullition of affection ſeemed to have cemented them in the cloſeſt unity of ſentiment.

Ella reaſoned with perplexity upon the diſſolution of her relationſhip with La Somme. "Not my daughter!" reſounded

in her ears; and when ſhe reflected on the objections he had raiſed to her lover, ſhe found ſome rebellious inſtinct within ready to exclaim,—"If he had really been my father, he would not have been ſo rigid! It is unfair to draw ſuch an inference againſt a man he has never known, becauſe a friend of his had nearly been cheated by an impoſtor: but it is my duty to gain ſatisfaction, and to offer the evidence to him; if it be convincing, and he will not receive it, then ———" and here the ſentence was left unfiniſhed, and it is impoſſible, perhaps, to ſupply it ſo much to the credit of Ella as we could wiſh.

Ella, in compliance with the promiſe ſhe had made, diſpatched a letter to her lover, particularly requeſting that, from circumſtances which had made it neceſſary, he would remit to her an account of his real name, ſituation, and every particular of his family. La Somme ſaw the letter, and approved of its diction. In a ſhort time an anſwer was received, and contained high denun-

denunciations of anger againſt the man who dared to have raiſed any ſlanderous aſperſions upon his character and intentions, and concluded by aſſuring her that he ſhould be through the town ſoon, when he would call on La Somme, and explain the cauſes which had hitherto made him ſilent. Eternal love, pains of abſence, hopes, and the raptures of converſing with and embracing her, formed the ſequel of the letter, which La Somme ſaid was too fine for his common underſtanding.

The ſignature contained at the bottom of the letter was the name of Sterndorff.

"Well," ſaid Ella, "the propoſal to call perſonally is certainly a clear proof that his character does not fear your inveſtigation."

"I ſhall form, Ella, a better opinion when he does call;—perhaps he never may," ſaid La Somme.

Another week followed, and the ſame ſilence continued, and the convictions of Ella were depicted on her countenance. On the

the Sunday morning, La Somme entered into converſation with Ella on the obnoxious theme, and Ella had no ſcreen to ſhelter herſelf under, no defence to offer but what the chance of accident, or ſome poſitive orders to journey another route, might offer. This La Somme ſtill combated, and maintained, that if he could not come, he could have written the intelligence. Ella, fairly beaten out of the field, was about to retire, when La Somme riſing, unlocked his eſcrutoire, took out a ſheet of paper, and requeſted her to write as he dictated. The trembling hand of the frightened girl took the pen, and wrote a moſt formidable letter of denunciation, aſſuring him from herſelf, that her father had detected him in his nefarious intentions, and would puniſh him *according to law*, if he continued to haunt her or his houſe. Ella thought this the extreme ſtretch of parental juriſdiction; the feelings of vexation and love drew tears into her eyes, and ſome of the harſher words were half blotted and illegible through the falling

falling of theſe tributes to affection. La Somme took the letter, when ſhe had finiſhed it, and called her his dear girl: he ventured too to predict, that the preſent uneaſineſs ſhe felt in the amputation of ſuch an excreſcence would make her view herſelf with the more conſcious ſatisfaction in a few months hence.

The ſerious diſpoſition in which Ella found herſelf, thought it would obtain relief in attending the morning ſervice, and therefore ſhe reſolved to go to church. Her tongue anſwered intuitively to the reſponſes, but her heart had no connexion with the object of them. She was loſt in the profundity of her reſearches into the cauſes of Sterndorff's abſence and ungenerous treatment; and, after a long conteſt between duty and pride on the one ſide, and love on the other, ſhe determined to baniſh the image of Sterndorff from her boſom: but what natural power could effect this? The frail reſolution was broken at the moment of making it, for, as ſhe turned her

her eye, occaſioned by the opening of the pew-door, ſhe ſaw the agreeable culprit, the enchanting Sterndorff enter. Her lips partook of the whiteneſs of her teeth, and the blood retired from her cheek. Sterndorff bowed at his entrance with an apparent conſciouſneſs of his fault, and the ſervice continued through without an exchange of looks or words which might attract the attention of the congregation.

Sterndorff, when they quitted the church, taking her hand, begged her forgiveneſs for his long delay in coming; but aſſured her that unavoidable cauſes had detained him, and as it would be improper to converſe publicly together, he requeſted ſhe would meet him at the walk by the ſide of the ſtream, when he had ſome intereſting particulars to diſcloſe previouſly to his ſeeing La Somme. Ella, the ſimple forgiving Ella, eaſily believed what he ſaid, and promiſed herſelf a compenſation in the evening for the gloom and terror of the morning.

At

At dinner time, La Somme thought it was not *unſeaſonable* to give his animadverſions upon his foreſight and knowledge of the world; and he even augured, from Ella's greater cheerfulneſs, that ſhe was reconciled to the ſteps he had taken, while Ella readily admitted every concluſion he inferred, that ſhe might with the more force ſhortly throw them back upon himſelf.

In the evening Ella obſerved, that, as the ſervice of the morning had been productive of ſo much relief to her mind, ſhe ſhould attend the lecture in the evening. La Somme had nothing to object, and Ella reſolved, like the firſt devotees, to offer up her devotion in the fields.

Ella ſoon occupied the ſame ſpot which ſhe had once with pure delight traverſed with Albert. It had frequently ſpread a ſerious tranſient reflection over her mind at the riſe and fall of Albert's paſſion. Here ſtood the ſtile where the willing hand of Martin had aſſiſted her over, and there the one-plank bridge, where his aſſiduous care

care laughed at danger; here was the termination of the grove, at the oppoſite opening of which the ſun ſeemed to have collected his illuminating rays in one grand focus before he quitted it for the evening, and there was an oaken ſeat, beſide the edge of the ſerpentine ſtream, on which Albert had read to her in a ſtyle ſuperior to the lovers who reſorted there. All theſe circumſtances did ſometimes recur to her memory, and raiſe a wiſh that Martin had united more the perſon and courtly addreſs of Sterndorff. Theſe ſhort-lived mementos occupied her attention during a turn or two in the grove, when they were diſſipated by the appearance of her lover.

After the firſt endearing enquiries had ſubſided, Ella reproached him in the gentleſt manner with his neglect in not anſwering her letter, and for the ſituation to which it had reduced her. Sterndorff entered in a warm and impaſſioned defence to the charge of his want of affection; declared that he arrived at home but a few hours before

before the Saturday morning, and that the aſtoniſhment he had experienced on the peruſal of her ſecond letter had determined him, notwithſtanding the fatigue he had endured, to indulge himſelf with the conſolation of exchanging his mutual vows with her's, and ſatisfying her upon the buſineſs of her letter. Ella's heart was overcharged with conviction at the frankneſs of the declaration, and ſhe detailed to him, amidſt the intervals of a ſtolen half-willing kiſs or two, the ſuſpicions of La Somme, and the letter of threat and diſmiſſion which he might have expected to have received in a few days. Sterndorff was keen in his remarks upon his precipitancy, and ſharpened by his reaſoning the little points of diſſatisfaction on which much of Ella's converſation turned. Sterndorff then informed her, that the extreme neceſſity he was under of returning that evening would not ſuffer him to continue with her much longer, but previouſly to his ſetting off, he meant to repair to her houſe, and, in a few words give La

Somme

Somme ſuch references and intelligence as would be ſatisfactory. How did the heart of Ella bound forward at the pleaſing ſound! "Come," ſaid ſhe, "the hour of meeting will be over by the time we reach home, and it would have a leſs concerted appearance that you ſhould enter the houſe a ſhort time before me."

Sterndorff called her an angel for her plan, and ſwore that it was "the divinity that ſpake within her;" and the fluttering boſom of Ella replied in the words of the ſame author, "Sterndorff, thou reaſoneſt well."

Within a quarter of an hour of each other, the lovers found themſelves in the ſame parlour: unluckily La Somme was not at home; he had quitted the houſe directly after Ella went out. They each regretted this unfortunate concurrence, and when Sterndorff had waited an hour in the greateſt ſuſpenſe, his ſervant rang at the door, and word was brought that Sterndorff's horſe was ready, and that his friend who had accompanied him would wait no longer.

longer. The intelligence was afflicting; but who was to blame? Nobody but Fate could be accuſed, and therefore they laid on that curſed jade all the fault.

Sterndorff, with the frankneſs of the moſt fearleſs virtue, told Ella he would put her in poſſeſſion of the addreſſes of himſelf and family, at the Court of Denmark, and that of another perſon of reſpectability, who would detail the hopes and the rank he held in life; and that the poſſeſſion of her perſon was of leſs conſequence than her eſteem.

At the moment of their taking leave of each other, another meeting was promiſed, of which Sterndorff was to convey information to her, though it was again recollected that no precaution would then be neceſſary, as every obſtruction would be previouſly done away.

It will be proper to obſerve in this place, how La Somme had ſpent his time during Ella's abſence. Her ſudden fondneſs for the ſervice in the morning, and lecture in the evening, induced La Somme to ſee if it

was natural: he accordingly followed ſhortly after to the meeting, but Ella was inviſible; nevertheleſs, as it was impoſſible to ſurvey the inſide at once, he waited at the door when it was over, to recover the loſt lamb, but in vain; he then called at a female friend of Ella's, and, learning nothing of her, returned in about half an hour after Sterndorff had gone.

"Ella," ſaid La Somme, "I ſuſpect ſomething: I have been to Mr. Stutzer's meeting, and you were not there."

"No," replied Ella:" I went, my dear ſir, to Mr. Smart's, for they do not make ſuch long ſermons:—But there is ſuch good news—you have heard it perhaps:—I muſt tell you—I feel ſo light and ſo pleaſant:—Sterndorff has been waiting an hour to ſee you, and is not long gone."

"I do not believe it," ſaid La Somme; "but if it be true, why did he not ſtay, if he came for that purpoſe, till he had ſeen me?"

"That, you know, ſir, was your fault, not his: he arrived at the place of his reſidence,

dence, but on Saturday morning, and he has rode here poſt to give you the ſatisfaction you require; and when he found he could wait no longer, he has left with me every information where I can obtain the particulars of his family and himſelf. He propoſes to call upon you in the courſe of a fortnight, when he has much to ſay."

"Well," ſaid La Somme, "we ſhall ſee: I ſhall wait another fortnight, and if he does not appear, I ſhall write according to his addreſs; but if the intelligence be ſuch as I expect, I ſhall then ſend the letter you have written this morning, incloſed in one of mine."

Ella congratulated herſelf upon her management through the converſation, and ſoon regained her accuſtomed hilarity. She little regarded what La Somme thought of her private interviews, or the myſteriouſneſs of her lover: her grand object was to repel the aſperſions of La Somme, and prove that her diſcernment was ſuperior to his.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

LA SOMME, tired with the irkſomeneſs of the buſineſs, determined previouſly to ſending the letter of diſmiſſal; and to convince Ella of the candid ſteps he meant to purſue, acquainted her with his reſolution to write immediately to Denmark, for a friend of his to enquire, according to the addreſs, the character of Sterndorff. Ella agreed with the ſcheme, and reſolved to put in practice one of her own; which was, while La Somme was writing to his friend, to diſguiſe her hand-writing, aſſume the name of her father, and direct to the two perſons whom Sterndorff had requeſted her to refer to. The ſame poſt conveyed the ſame

ſame letters, and returned on the ſame day the three anſwers. Ella watched the entrance of the poſtman, and recogniſed the letters which were hers, by the wrong number of the houſe, which ſhe had purpoſely inſerted in the direction given where to ſend them.

She flew in doors with the portentous ſheets of information, and, having delivered La Somme the letter which belonged to him, with the impreſſion of anxiety, hurried up ſtairs to read her ſentence in terrorum. A ſmile ſoon overſpread her countenance, at the agreeable intelligence it contained; and this was further increaſed when ſhe found the ſecond letter corroborate the firſt: each went moſt poſitively to prove that he was the only ſon of a man of high rank at court, who had been, for ſome offence, impriſoned, where he died; that, having committed an indignity againſt a nobleman his brother, he from revenge had been inſtrumental in his ſevere puniſhment: that he had afterwards relented, when it was too

late, and had taken the ſon from indigence and obſcurity, adopted him into his own family, and would inveſt his father's property on him: that his character was the moſt honourable and affectionate exiſting; that he had lately involved himſelf in ſome pecuniary embarraſſments, and incurred his noble uncle's diſpleaſure, by having too liberally relieved the wants of ſeveral friends, ſome of whom had even forged his acceptance to bills, which, rather than proſecute, he had paid: that, on this account, he had accepted the office of a ſtate-meſſenger, and refuſed to recruit his finances by marriage. The letters went farther to ſtate the name and abode of the nobleman to whom, if farther evidence was neceſſary, they would undertake to get a letter delivered. They concluded with their happineſs at rendering La Somme any ſervice or information they could give.

Ella danced about the room with the letters in each hand, and vowed ſhe would

have

have given the writers twenty kiſſes for the golden gift they had ſent her.

" Now," ſaid La Somme, " if you will not be convinced—if you will perſiſt—if you will obſtinately object—if you will not —why then I *will not* ——"

La Somme found himſelf equally as much delighted by the information he had gained, from ſuch oppoſite cauſes does the ſame affection frequently ſpring: his letter was the reverſe of Ella's, and confirmed him in the opinion he had formed of Sterndorff: it ſtated that he had been noticed by a nobleman upon ſome particular affection he had taken him, but from his groſs miſconduct he had diſcarded him.

This was the brief outline of the contents; and the channel through which he had received the intelligence was one of the ſervants. La Somme was convinced: and when Ella deſcended, ſhe heard La Somme, with an ejaculation on his tongue, exclaim:—

" Thank heaven, I have come to a right underſtanding at laſt: this is the luckieſt epiſtle I have a long while received. Why a hundred pounds would not purchaſe the happineſs this letter will give us."

Ella, who perceived that the letter was the cauſe of his joy, concluded that its contents were ſimilar to hers, and eagerly aſked the cauſe of his exultation.

" Faith!" cried La Somme, " at a cauſe which is equally for the good of us both: this letter contains a complete detection of that villainous adventurer, Sterndorff. I have him here at full length!"

" Villain, Sterndorff! you are jeſting ſurely! Your letter cannot ſo miſrepreſent him:—I ſee you have a mind to plague me."

" Look—read—judge for yourſelf: it came from a friend of mine whom I can rely upon."

Ella took the letter and read it over three times, unwilling to believe the evidence of her ſenſes.

" Now,"

"Now," ſaid La Somme, "do you think my ſuſpicion was ill founded? Do you think the letter is not genuine; or its contents are untrue?"

"Yes," rejoined Ella; "I am convinced of both. In return, take theſe, and judge for yourſelf."

La Somme now re-acted the part that Ella had juſt done: he read them over attentively, and when he had finiſhed, like Ella, he found his firſt opinion remain the ſame.

"Ella," ſaid he, "theſe letters are not genuine; or, if they are, and the writers of them are reſpectable, they have been deceived. I think I can obſerve a ſimilarity in the hand writing of the two; and now I look more narrowly, I obſerve that the marks made in the fabrication of the ſheets of paper are the ſame. Theſe correſpondencies evidently ſhew that you have received a falſe character."

"This," replied Ella, warmly, "will rather attach to you! I have two eviden-

ces for one; and the ſimilarity of the ſheets of paper is no proof: and as to the reſemblance of the hand-writing, I do not at all perceive it."

"Ella," ſaid La Somme, "you will do well to diſcard wholly this connection: your ignorance of the world makes you put a good conſtruction upon its duplicities: you will be inevitably ruined if you perſue this buſineſs; and if you reſolve to doubt, I muſt determine to counteract."

"I do not reſiſt evidence," ſaid Ella, tartly, "I am determined by it; nor am I reſolved to doubt any longer: I am convinced that Sterndorff is not the perſon you repreſent; and until I have more information, I ſhall not diſcard the object of my regard. I am not diſobedient, my dear ſir: I am, if I am wrong, the dupe of my judgment, and we are each fallible."

"I am ſorry for your judgment: — you are a fooliſh, weak, and undutiful girl," ſaid La Somme; and he turned out of the room

room to conceal more agitations than he wiſhed ſhe ſhould obſerve.

" And you are an obſtinate, prejudiced, and ——— well-meaning old man, I dare ſay, ſaid Ella."

Thus ended the dialogue, which had produced no change of opinion on either ſide, but had reſolved each to purſue more firmly the meaſures they thought beſt. Ella retired, and after various reſolutions and reaſonings, determined to tranſmit to her lover the converſation which had paſſed, and to requeſt an interview.

La Somme, without conſulting Ella, in a few days, ſent off the letter which ſhe had written at his inſtigation, on the Sunday three weeks before, and he added in a poſtſcript at the bottom of his letter, which enveloped it, that he had taken effectual means to prevent the liberty Ella had enjoyed in going out, and to render impoſſible her receiving any letters but through his medium. This plan, he doubted not, would prevent any farther intercourſe; and he congratulated

himſelf upon having finally cloſed a very dark and diſquieting buſineſs.

The increaſe of fatigue, which the old gentleman found when Albert left him to enter into the mercantile line, had rendered his health very fluctuating, and the uneaſineſs of mind which had ſo quickly followed from the diſcovery of the views of Albert and Sterndorff operated to make him wiſh for more eaſe and vivacity: he had accumulated ſufficient to taſte all the moderate pleaſures of life, and he began to think he had quite enough to beſtow on Ella if ſhe proved grateful and tractbale, and too much if ſhe forfeited her claim. He therefore reſolved to part with his buſineſs, and occupy a ſmall convenient houſe at the entrance of the town, which he could leave in the charge of a faithful domeſtic, when he had an inclination to vary the ſcene. In a very ſhort time after the annunciation of his deſign, a purchaſer preſented himſelf, with whom La Somme. finally cloſed, and to the aſtoniſhment of Ella, ſhe beheld the joke of his retiring

retiring from *getting of money* actually realiſed. La Somme then projected a farther plan for the benefit of health and amuſement; and this was a tour through the wide and extended circles of his friends, and to which he was principally induced by latent reaſons on Ella's account. The abſence of all communication with her lover, and the diſcipline which he ordered to be obſerved, had painted on her cheek the lily of diſappointment, and he now projected this journey to endeavour to replace the faded roſes by the benefits of air and variety, the progreſs of which has been detailed in an early chapter.

himſelf upon having finally cloſed a very dark and diſquieting buſineſs.

The increaſe of fatigue, which the old gentleman found when Albert left him to enter into the mercantile line, had rendered his health very fluctuating, and the uneaſineſs of mind which had ſo quickly followed from the diſcovery of the views of Albert and Sterndorff operated to make him wiſh for more eaſe and vivacity: he had accumulated ſufficient to taſte all the moderate pleaſures of life, and he began to think he had quite enough to beſtow on Ella if ſhe proved grateful and tractbale, and too much if ſhe forfeited her claim. He therefore reſolved to part with his buſineſs, and occupy a ſmall convenient houſe at the entrance of the town, which he could leave in the charge of a faithful domeſtic, when he had an inclination to vary the ſcene. In a very ſhort time after the annunciation of his deſign, a purchaſer preſented himſelf, with whom La Somme. finally cloſed, and to the aſtoniſhment of Ella, ſhe beheld the joke of his retiring

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CHAP. XI.

HAVING now completed our enquiry into the events of Ella's ſituation, and traced back the cauſes which brought La Somme and her to Blumen farm, we ſhall continue our narration, and take a peep into farmer Martin's and Liſſetta's.

The firſt enquiry of the farmer, when he was alone with La Somme, was after his ſon Albert, and to requeſt a particular explanation of the cauſes which produced the letter he had, as before-mentioned, received. La Somme, with great concern, detailed the events as they have ariſen, and the diſcovery of a miſtreſs under the fallacious diſguiſe of a ſiſter.

Old Martin doubted the poſſibility of ſo much treachery, and ſtated that, in the few letters

letters he receive from him during the years of his reſidence with his patron, that he had uniformly ſpoken with the moſt paſſionate reſpect of his daughter; and in the laſt, had fairly aſſerted that he ſhould continue for life a bachelor, unleſs the goodneſs of the amiable Ella would condeſcend to take t'e reproach from him. "That his ſiſter is in the habit of correſponding with him *only*, I believe," ſaid Martin, "he is the repoſitory of all her ſecrets. When I came to reſide on this farm, I immediately deſired her, in compliance with the dying requeſt of her mother, to come home immediately: but ſhe urged reaſons againſt it. Her mother's encouragement was the firſt cauſe which led to my preſent anxiety:— The connexion which has ſeduced her cannot inform me of her retreat; having therefore ſullied my name by her imprudence, ſhe ſhall find neither a home here nor a father in me. I have already ſuffered much on her account; and the detail will ſerve to amuſe

us over our pipes and our bottles on a future evening."

"Where," ſaid La Somme, "was the place of her reſidence laſt?"

"The laſt time I heard of her, ſir, it was at Potſdam; I ſuppoſe ſhe reſides there ſtill."

"Then, ſir, the poſt-mark on this letter ſhews a different place. It cannot be the ſame perſon reſiding at both places."

"Am I doomed then," exclaimed Martin, "next to ſuffer in my Albert—my daughter, perhaps, on the precipice of ruin, and my ſon's reſpectability deſtroyed."

"Then," ſaid La Somme, "there is the ſtyle of the letter and the elegance of the preſent, neither could come from a girl in a dependent ſituation."

"The firſt cannot be her dictating—and the latter, alas! may be a part of the purchaſe of her chaſtity!"

"I fear it," ſaid La Somme, "if ſhe actually ſent it: but a the contrary ſeems the fact, it eſtabliſhes Albert's guilt, and does

does not implicate her. But to aſcertain with more certainty this conviction, you will be able, on compariſon, to know whether theſe lines which Albert received are his ſiſter's writing."

"A good thought," exclaimed Martin; "and now I look at them, I am certain that it is Roſella's very method of making her letters: I could be ſworn upon it that ſhe wrote this, and that Albert muſt have received it as his ſiſter's letter."

"Well, then," ſaid La Somme, "it is juſt as broad as it is long—now we have cleared Albert and ſentenced your daughter: nevertheleſs, though I am heartily rejoiced at this diſcovery, I am not yet ſatisfied as to the locket,—and you muſt own that, not receiving any anſwer when I wrote by his direction, had a very unpromiſing aſpect."

Martin confeſſed it had a ſtrange appearance, and here the converſation ſubſided.—La Somme was inwardly gratified that this circumſtance had leſſened the blame he had imputed to Albert; and he thought it juſt

that

that he ſhould write him a line, that his arrival at his father's had been productive of reſtoring him more to favour. He briefly informed Ella of what he had learned, and told her he plainly foreſaw it would be her fate to have Albert at laſt. Ella laughed at the imbrobability, and added that ſhe ſhould never have him unleſs ſhe had loſt her ſight and ſenſe together.

La Somme had propoſed to remain a fortnight at Martin's, and to proceed on his route.

"This," ſaid Ella, "is an unfortunate reſolution, which it is my duty to obey; I am not intereſted in the friend you are going to viſit, and I would gladly yield a month there for a few days with Liſſetta."

Liſſetta, when ſhe next ſaw La Somme, interceded for her on the ſame ſubject; and he ſtipulated that he would conſent, if ſhe would be entirely under the diſcretion of farmer Martin. The ſtipulations being formally ratified, the old gentleman prepared to go forward, having firſt given the ſtricteſt charge

charge to his tenant to watch her conduct, and to have her under his roof every night that ſhe viſited her friend. La Somme imagined that the privacy of the farmer's ſituation, and the narrow circle of Liſſetta's acquaintance would leave Ella perfectly ſecure from any renewal of the connexion, which he flattered himſelf he had deſtroyed, and which in his ſhort abſence would gratify Ella's friend and herſelf.

The approaching time ſeemed to promiſe a harveſt of happineſs to the young friends: they did not foreſee that the pleaſure of intercourſe had riſen to its zenith nearly, and was interpoſing objects and events between them, which would prematurely diſſatisfy and ſeparate them from each other.

A week paſſed without any material occurrence after the departure of La Somme, who ſafely arrived at the houſe of his old friend Fryherr. His unexpected arrival was productive of a welcome equal to the importance of the connubial miſſion which

it

it was concluded he came finally to ſettle. La Somme, indeed, gave encouragement to the plan, and the only regret they felt was that he had left Ella behind him; but even this was turned into a fortunate circumſtance; it was evident the young gentleman could have the beſt opportunity of ſhewing his gallantry, in eſcorting the lady home.

La Somme was introduced to the intended bridegroom, whoſe behaviour and perſon he thought were pleaſing and impreſſive. However ſanguine the old gentlemen were, the young one ſuggeſted ſomething of impropriety in introducing himſelf to an unknown lady, and taking her from Mr. Martin, to whom ſhe was intruſted. Her attachments to her friend had detained her at the farm; and it was out of time, he obſerved, to interrupt their *harmony* by the inſertion of ſuch a *bar* as himſelf. The old folks cancelled all theſe objections as faſt as they aroſe, and to give weight and conſequence to the deputation, the father, (Mr. Fryherr) reſolved that he would go himſelf

himſelf with La Somme's letters of credence, and introduce his ſon, that he might on the next day return with his intended daughter-in-law.

Every adjuſtment being made, the relatives ſet forward, the ſon with a heavy inclination, and the father with the greateſt hilarity; in the mean time La Somme was pleaſing himſelf with the aſſiduities of his friends, and the near approach of his favorite Ella.

The good and pious Abbé, whom we have mentioned in the earlier pages of our work, it was obſerved had not viſited Liſſetta's mother but once ſince the arrival of La Somme. The old lady imparted to him every circumſtance which occurred in the family, and felt herſelf rather concerned at the cauſe of his abſence: ſuppoſing that indiſpoſition might be the reaſon, ſhe determined to walk to the convent: ſhe found the Abbé perfectly well, and on her enquiry, accounted for his abſence by the contempt Liſſetta had expreſſed for the duties

ties of confeſſion, and her non-attendance on the ſervices of the church. Theſe high crimes and miſdemeanors were explained by the old lady to originate with Ella, her friend, who, as well as her father, was a hugonot.

" Miſeriordia!" exclaimed the prieſt, " what alarming intelligence! And you are inſtrumental to your daughter's progreſs towards hereſy: My dear holy friend, recollect that the church gives abſolution for every other crime but hereſy; this is beyond her power. It is the buſineſs of our lives to provide remedies for theſe mental evils. The ſimilarity of their years, and the cloſeneſs of their friendſhip, imply a ſimilitude of thought, and if you have made no efforts from the arguments I have furniſhed you with to convince her of her error, you yourſelf will not long remain uncontaminated. I ſhall impoſe a duty on you, which is, that you do not ſuffer Liſſetta to be alone with her friend, nor to have any communication whatſoever, if it can be prevented.

Believe

Believe me," continued he, " her intereſt is my happineſs, and her miſdoing my diſgrace. We are peculiarly the ſervants of headſtrong girls, for the holy Virgin is the object of our adoration."

The old devotee, having confeſſed and profeſſed largely, departed; and, on her arrival at home, hobbled up ſtairs to Liſſette, to adminiſter this pilula benedicta, which was to purge her mind. The preſcription to Liſſetta was, however, as may be expected, equally nauſeating and indigeſtive.

" Ella's friendſhip and mine," ſaid Liſſetta, " were cemented before the Abbé knew us, and he ſhall not break what he had no hand in the formation of: ſo, my good mother, it will be my buſineſs not to mind this new law, unleſs the holy Virgin comes and tells it me herſelf."

Liſſetta, it was intended, was to have gone early on the morning following to ſpend the whole day with her friend, but the abſolute interdiction under which ſhe laid

laid fruſtrated her intention, and ſhe was compelled to wait patiently till Ella could come to her.

This failure, Ella towards evening, ſet out to learn the cauſe of: ſhe had dreſſed herſelf in the moſt looſe and ſimple manner, and had ſuſpended from her neck the locket —that taliſman which had produced ſuch conjectures and events. After having croſſed ſome fields, ſhe entered a long glen of trees, by the ſide of which, at about fifty yards, was an even thickſet hedge; on the oppoſite part the country laid open, interrupted only by a cottage here and there, or a chateau: on the back ground it was terminated by ſwelling hills, foreſts, and the glowing rays of the deſcending ſunbeams, reflected by the village ſpires, the glaſs windows of the more elevated manſions, and the chalky brightneſs of the ſoil: in ſhort, nature ſeemed to preſent an evening ſcene which memory had ſeen and admired at a period not very remote. The tranquillity and familiarity of the landſcape induced Ella

Ella to ſeat herſelf on the trunk of a fallen tree, and a train of thoughts transferred themſelves from the inanimate delight, to a wiſh for Liſſetta's company, and that of Sterndorff.

The view we have juſt deſcribed, and which was ſo attractive, Ella ſoon recollected was the ſimilitude of a ſcene introduced in the theatrical repreſentation which had firſt led her to the acquaintance with Sterndorff, and its pleaſing remembrance introduced the converſation which had paſſed between them on the beauty of the proſpect, and the knowledge of the ſcites which Ella recollected he then ſaid he was well acquainted with.

In the moſt profound part of her reverie, ſhe was fearfully and ſuddenly alarmed by a ſcuffling and apprehenſion in the hedge, which laid behind her: ſhe turned her head intuitively, and at the moment a piſtol was fired. The ſuddenneſs of the exploſion made her utter an exclamation of terror, and while ſhe ſtill contemplated the ſpot from

from whence the alarm proceeded, the outcry of "Help!" and the ſudden leap of a human figure, over the hedge, with a piſtol in his hand, ſuſpend her ſenſes, and ſhe ſunk from the ſeat to the ground. The ſtranger hearing a female voice contiguous, ran immediately to the ſpot, and beheld the living image of death with apparent emotion. In a ſhort time the faculties returned to their office, and, on opening her eyes, delightful reverſe! happy diſcovery! ſhe beheld herſelf ſitting on the knee, and faſt locked in the arms of the object ſhe had wiſhed anxiouſly for,—of Sterndorff. She doubted for a moment if what ſhe felt was material, but the cloſeneſs of his preſſure, and the glow of his lips to her ivory cheek, ſoon convinced her that the figure had animation. He was clad in the ſame regimentals, and his appearance exactly correſponded with the dreſs he had on when Ella firſt ſaw him at the theatre.

After the firſt ejaculations of love and ſurpriſe had ſubſided, her tenderneſs led her

to

to enquire if his perſon had been endangered by the encounter ſhe had heard, and what could be the occaſion of ſuch an outrage.

" I arrived but at noon, " ſaid he, " in the town, and as the pleaſantneſs of the evening induced me to take a turn through the fields, I had lengthened my walk farther than I intended, inſenſibly regardleſs of diſtance or danger, while you were preſent to my imagination. I croſſed the road to a ſtyle which conducted to a bye path, the termination of which I was deſirous to know, when I was ſtartled at the ſwift and bold approach of two men from behind a tree: they had each a ſabre in their hand, and when they demanded me to ſtop, I inſtantly fled: this policy ſeparated the two, and when I found the ſwifteſt gained upon me, I ſuddenly turned round and drew a piſtol: he had time to make one cut at me, which by my agility has only wounded my left hand; but his cloſeneſs, at the moment of miſſing his blow, enabled me to fire with

with preciſion, and the piſtol I diſcharged into his head. His companion in a few moments came up with us, but as it was evident I had no other means of defence, and was the ſwifteſt of foot, I ſought my ſafety by flight, and he purſued me till I had leaped over the hedge: at that moment I heard a ſhriek, and found the guardian angel who had protected me was herſelf in want of aſſiſtance. I have exchanged the ſhriek I heard for the muſic of your voice, and one diſagreeable rencontre has been ſucceeded by the unexpected happineſs of another!"

END OF VOL. I.

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